



Beginner Bible Study Guidelines

Reasons why people study the Bible:

- Learn historical facts
- Explore the Christian faith
- Develop a relationship and understanding of Jesus Christ the Christian God

Techniques for studying the Bible:

- Read from beginning to end over a year.
- Read and discuss with a group by book, chapter, or verse and discuss
- In-depth or general study in a private or group setting.

Layout of the Bible:

- There are 66 books divided into the Old and New Testament
- Each book is divided by chapters and the chapters are further divided by verses
- The Old Testament is made up of four basic categories (Law, History, Poetry, Prophets)
- The New Testament is made up of four basic categories (Gospels, Early Church History, Letters, Prophecy)

The difference between In-depth and General Bible Study:

- General Study is selecting a book of the Bible to read from and reading a chapter or more, beginning with a moment of prayer and ending with follow up reflection on what the verses are saying and how to apply it to your life.
- In-Depth Study is the practice of reading a book of the Bible verse by verse and slowly praying, reflecting, researching original language and historical traditions and customs, and following up with focused prayer of reflection and application.

Recommendations for a beginner:

- If possible find a person who has studied the Bible before and join them. (Use a Study Bible edition if available)
- If you are studying alone remember it doesn't matter where you start to read the Bible the big thing is to start.
- Always begin and end in prayer. (For more information: [Perspectives for Prayer Guide](#))
- Start reading in the first book or start in the back of Bible in John. Read until you have a question. Write the question in a notebook or journal and include any application ideas you have.
- Be sure to pray about your questions and seek guidance from someone who has studied the Bible before. [Click here for a free guide to prayer.](#)

Tips to understanding a problem verse:

- Read the verses before and after the problem verse and read another translation
- Re-read the verse looking for: Who is speaking? What is being done and said? What purpose is it for? Look in a Bible dictionary, or encyclopaedia, and the concordance in the back of the Bible to see what else the Bible says about the subject.