

How to Start Reading Your Bible

Beginner Bible Lessons | Topic 1 of 3

Kingdom Family Ministry | Beginner Bible Lessons

You do not need a theology degree to read the Bible — you just need to start. This checklist will walk you through everything, from picking up a Bible to building a habit that fits your real life.

■ Step 1: Get the Right Bible for You

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Choose a translation you can understand

For beginners, the New International Version (NIV), New Living Translation (NLT), or English Standard Version (ESV) are easy to follow. Avoid older versions if reading is a challenge.

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Try a free Bible app

YouVersion (Bible App) is free and available on any phone or tablet. You can listen to the Bible read aloud — great if reading is difficult.

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Ask your church or KFM for a physical Bible

Many churches offer free Bibles. You should never have to buy one to get started.

■■ Step 2: Understand How the Bible Is Organized

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Know the two main sections

The Bible has two parts: the Old Testament (before Jesus) and the New Testament (the life of Jesus and the early church). There are 66 books total.

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Learn how to find a verse

Each book is divided into chapters and verses. John 3:16 means the book of John, chapter 3, verse 16. It is like an address for every sentence.

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Start with the New Testament

If you are brand new to the Bible, start with the book of John or Luke. They tell the story of Jesus in a clear, straightforward way.

■ Step 3: Build a Reading Habit

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Start small — even 5 minutes counts

You do not need to read for an hour. Pick one chapter or even a few verses each day. Consistency matters more than length.

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Pick the same time each day

Morning, lunch break, or before bed — find what works for you and stick to it. Pair it with something you already do, like drinking coffee.

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Keep a simple journal

Write down one thing that stood out to you each day. A verse, a word, a question. You do not need special skills — just your honest thoughts.



Use a beginner reading plan

The YouVersion app has free reading plans for beginners. Try '7 Days of Hope' or 'The Life of Jesus' to get started with a guide.

■ Step 4: Make It Personal



Pray before you read

Ask God to help you understand what you are reading. Even a one-sentence prayer — 'Lord, speak to me today' — opens your heart.



Ask questions — it is okay not to know

Confusion is normal. Write down questions and bring them to a pastor, a Bible study group, or a trusted Christian friend.



Look for one thing to apply

Instead of trying to understand everything, ask: 'What is one thing I can do differently this week based on what I read?'



Connect with others

Reading with a friend, a small group, or a Bible study makes it more enjoyable and helps you stay accountable.

Where to Begin? Try This Plan This Week:

Day 1-2: Read John 1 (Who is Jesus?) Day 3-4: Read Psalm 23 (God is my shepherd) Day 5-6: Read Romans 8 (Nothing can separate us from God's love) Day 7: Write down one thing that meant something to you this week.

† Faith & Encouragement

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

— **Psalm 119:105**

You do not need to figure everything out at once. Open the Bible, take one step, and trust that God will meet you right where you are. Starting is the most important thing you can do today.

■ Need Emergency Assistance?

Kingdom Family Ministry's **Families First Program** is here for you. Our goal is to strengthen families with meaningful, responsible support. Assistance is available **once per service category within a 12-month period**, based on funding availability.

Learn more and apply for help:

www.kingdomfamilyministry.org/gethelp

Helpful Resources:

- **YouVersion Free Bible App:** www.bible.com
- **Bible Gateway (read online, any translation):** www.biblegateway.com
- **Open Bible (beginner guides):** www.openbible.info
- **KFM Families First Program:** www.kingdomfamilyministry.org/gethelp

Disclaimer: This resource is intended for personal encouragement and general Bible study. It is not a substitute for pastoral counseling or formal theological instruction. We encourage you to connect with a local church or faith community for deeper support and guidance. © Kingdom Family Ministry. All rights reserved.