

SIT  
WITH  
ME

AN INVITATION TO  
MEET WITH JESUS  
IN GOD'S WORD



A FAITHPATH RESOURCE



THEFAITHPATH.ORG



SIT  
WITH  
ME

AN INVITATION TO  
MEET WITH JESUS  
IN GOD'S WORD

# RELEARNING HOW TO READ

WEEK TWO

# WEEK TWO

## RELEARNING HOW TO READ

Do you remember getting a handwritten love letter from a sweetheart? If you do, you will recall the sense of wonder, gravity and mystique that surrounded that secret and precious exchange. You probably carefully guarded it, then rushed off to read it privately and poured over the language several times. What was said? What was not said? There was deep meaning in it all.

The following anecdote was published in the New York Times in 1940 as a promotion of J. Mortimer Adler's now classic, *How to Read a Book*.<sup>2</sup> It well illustrates how an intentional approach to reading drastically affects its impact and stamina.

### *"How To Read A Love Letter*

*This young man has just received his first love letter. He may read it three or four times, but he is just beginning. To read it as accurately as he would like would require several dictionaries and a good deal of close work with a few experts of etymology and philology.*

*However, he will do alright without them.*

*He will ponder over the exact shade of meaning of every word, every comma. She has headed the letter, "Dear John." What, he asks himself, is the exact significance of those words? Did she refrain from saying "Dear-est" because she was bashful? Would "My Dear" have sounded too formal?*

*Maybe she would have said "Dear So-and-so" to anybody! A worried frown will now appear on his face. But it disappears as soon as he really gets to thinking about the first sentence. She certainly wouldn't have written that to anybody!*

*And so he works his way through the letter, one moment perched blissfully on a cloud, the next moment huddled miserably behind an eight ball. It has started a hundred questions in his mind. He could quote it by heart. In fact, he will- to himself-for weeks to come."*

What if you read your Bible like John read his love letter? Although it should approach John's experience, the truth is reading the Bible is not like reading any other book. The Scriptures reveal the very words of God Almighty, the Eternal Creator of all things. As such, every individual word has tremendous meaning. This demands a purposeful reading, a slow reading, an attention to detail, an inquisitive mind and a patient spirit.

You likely whizz through your daily news feed searching for something that sparks in your mind. You may celebrate speed-reading and skimming for the gist. You may highly respect Cliff, the man seemingly responsible for shortened notes on all long and boring books. Who has time to read it all? Sitting with Jesus in the Scriptures must be very, very different.

When our first child was born, everything changed in an instant. I particularly remember the sleep deprivation of those first few weeks of parenthood. Then things began to change even more rapidly. Every day revealed something new. My son showed his first interest in independent movement rather early. He loved to roll over sideways like a runaway stick of firewood. Once I stepped away for six seconds to get a bottle and returned to find him under the entertainment center. He just rolled over and over, laughing the entire way. I only found him by tracking the giggle.

During that season, my wife and I spent a lot of time on the carpet. We sat on the ground, laid on the ground and eventually began to crawl on the ground alongside our son. We discovered a completely new perspective from this vantage point. We noticed some dangers we had overlooked, like sharp corners and unprotected plugs. We began to pay closer attention to the cleanliness of our floors (which were already very clean). The ceilings were much further away. The light was different. You might say that as we slowed down and crawled, we saw almost everything in our home in a very different way.

I am inviting you this week to the practice of intentional crawling. Yes, I'm asking you to do the opposite of what most people are asking of you. Slow down. Be inefficient for once. As you open the Scriptures, take your time. Read and reread God's Word. While this may sound too simple to matter very much, I promise it is foundational to finding lifelong joy in God's Word.

Reading the love-inspired words of our gracious Heavenly Father in the Bible should be done with patience and reflection. This is how we are to read God's Word, but this takes an unlearning and a relearning. As you relearn, work on reading as slowly as possible. Think about each individual word and its meaning.

While this may sound tedious, I assure you, it is how you mine for gold. Some gold nuggets are so big they are obvious and easy to find. However, many, if not most, are "hidden" in the details and fine print. You must learn how to pan for this kind of biblical gold. This is about relearning how to read.

“The Bible defines and develops us as Christ followers. Take away the Bible and we cease to exist [as the Body of Christ]. It is both foundation and fuel of spiritual vitality for a Christian.

Accordingly, there are many reasons we as believers need to read the Bible on a consistent basis. (1) We need to read the Bible to know the truth. We want to think clearly about what God says is true and valuable. (2) We read the Bible to know God in a personal relationship.

(3) We read the Bible to live well for God in this world, and living out His will expresses our love for Him. (4) We read the Bible to experience God’s freedom, grace, peace and hope. (5) We read the Bible because it gives us joy.

(6) We read the Bible to grow spiritually, as we reject conformity to the world and are changed by the renewing of our minds. (7) We read the Bible to minister to other Christ followers and to those who have yet to respond to the Gospel, experiencing God’s approval for work well done.

(8) We read the Bible to guard ourselves from sin and error. (9) We read the Bible to be built up as a Christian community with others in the body of Christ.”

- George Guthrie, *Read the Bible for Life*<sup>3</sup>

# WEEK TWO RELEARNING HOW TO READ

## MEMORY VERSE

“For I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live but Christ lives within me.”

- Galatians 2:20

Commit this scripture to memory. This is a powerful way to constantly engage God's Word and write it on your heart.

Consider writing it on a post-it or note-card and putting it in a prominent place like your bathroom mirror or car dashboard. Work on it each day. This simple practice reminds you to dwell on God's Word constantly.



# INSIGHTS

## THE BIBLE AT A GLANCE

The Bible is separated into two parts, the Old and New Testament. The Old Testament is the oldest part of our Bible, thus the name. The Old Testament contains 39 individual books, some of them in two parts like First and Second Chronicles. The Book of Job is likely the oldest part, dating to before the time of Abraham. The Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew and Aramaic. In about 250 B.C., it was officially translated into Greek, the common language of the time. The official collection of 39 books was already well established by the time of Jesus.

The New Testament contains 27 individual books or letters, bringing the total number of books in the whole Bible to 66. The New Testament was written almost entirely in Greek, with a few Hebrew and Aramaic words or phrases included. The oldest part is perhaps the book of James, written by Jesus' half-brother. The last book written was probably Revelation. The whole 27-book unit was recognized, collected and vigorously copied perhaps within just a few decades of Jesus' death. The official formation of the "canon" or "standard" of 27 New Testament books was not a political choice by a king hundreds of years later, but the clear observation from the church of which books had Holy Spirit-wrought power and truth. It was a Divine self-selection above all.

There are over 40 authors of the Bible, most of whom never met each other, yet both Old and New Testament speak a unified truth about God. They are God's Word. They reveal God's character, work and interaction with men and women. God's Holy Spirit inspired these authors to write precisely, accurately and fully His intended revelation. From the first part written to the last part, there is a time lapse of perhaps 2500 years. Your Bible was written from Egypt, Israel, Babylon, Turkey, Greece and perhaps other places, yet it is a whole, with unity and agreement. As such, it has withstood the criticism and attacks of millennia of adversaries and skeptics. Today it remains undeniably accurate, the greatest historical example of precision and preservation in all of literature.

As of 2016, the whole Bible has been translated into 636 distinct languages, and the New Testament into 1442 languages. Hundreds more translations are in process. Around the world, more than 100 million copies of the Bible are sold each year. Additionally, the United Bible Societies give away 400 million copies of the Bible every year.

You have a perfectly accurate and trustworthy, personal copy of this miraculous gift. This sets you apart from the vast majority of history and almost all of the people in the Bible itself. You have a complete copy of God's revelation. What will you do with it?



## WEEK TWO / DAY ONE

Begin in prayer to God and include this prayer from **Psalm 119**.

*"Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your Word."*

Find and read **Colossians 3:16**.

Rewrite it in your journal in full. Then read through the verse several more times slowly, emphasizing and meditating on each word. You may need to look up some of the words online for good definitions.

Write down any thoughts or questions. Work to understand the structure of the sentence and what it means as a whole.

How can you let God's word richly dwell within you?

---

---

---

---

Translate the verse into a personal prayer and close your time by talking to God directly.

## WEEK TWO / DAY TWO

Begin in prayer to God and include this prayer from **Psalm 119**.

*"Make me walk in the path of Your word, for that is where my happiness is found."*

Find and read Hebrews **4:12-13**.

Rewrite it in your journal in full and then read it several more times slowly, emphasizing and meditating on each word.

Write down any thoughts or questions. Work to understand the structure of the sentence and what it means as a whole.

Why do you think God's word is compared to a sharp sword?

---

---

---

---

Translate these verses into a personal prayer to close your time.

## WEEK TWO / DAY THREE

Begin in prayer to God and include this prayer from **Psalm 119**.

*"The unfolding of Your word gives light.  
Let your Word be a lamp to my feet, a  
light to my path."*

Read **First Peter 5:6-7**.

Rewrite it in your journal. Then read it several more times slowly, emphasizing and meditating on each word. Linger. Think.

Write down any thoughts or questions. Work to understand the structure of the sentence and what it means as a whole.

What is the relationship between humility and exaltation?

---

---

---

---

What does this passage reveal about God?

---

---

---

---

Translate this verse into a personal prayer.

## WEEK TWO / DAY FOUR

Begin in prayer to God and include this prayer from **Psalm 119**.

*"Your Word, O God, revives me.  
It comforts me in all of my troubles."*

Read **Colossians 1:15-18**. These are ancient words about Jesus.

Rewrite it in your journal. Then read it several more times slowly, emphasizing and meditating on each word.

Write down any thoughts or questions.

What is the most surprising thing this passage reveals about Jesus?

---

---

---

---

The most awe-inspiring?

---

---

---

---

The most comforting?

---

---

---

---

Close your time in prayer.

## WEEK TWO / DAY FIVE

Begin in prayer to God and include this prayer from **Psalm 119**.

*"You are my hiding place and shield, O God. I wait for Your word. Sustain me according to Your word, that I may live."*

Read **John 16:33**.

Rewrite it in your journal. Then read it through several more times slowly, emphasizing and meditating on each word. Linger. Think.

Write down any thoughts or questions.

How does Jesus provide peace?

---

---

---

---

Translate this simple verse into a prayer time for others.

## WEEK TWO / DAY SIX

Begin in prayer to God and include this prayer from **Psalm 119**.

*"Establish my footsteps in Your word, and do not let sin have any dominion over me."*

Read **First Corinthians 10:13**.

Rewrite it in your journal. Then read it through several more times slowly, emphasizing and meditating on each word.

Write down any thoughts or questions.

What are you tempted with the most and how does God meet you there?

---

---

---

---

Spend some time praying for your own heart.

## BE FREE

If at any point you fall behind in your daily readings, do not give way to guilt, despair or resignation. Never let yesterday's failure keep you from the beauty God wants to reveal today. His mercies are ever new. His grace is abundant. Just skip ahead and jump right back in. God wants to speak to you right now.

# COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

Share with your group how you engaged the reading and study this week. Did you sit with Jesus regularly?

How did this study help you explore God's Word more deeply and inspire you to sit with Jesus more consistently?

How can you let "the word of Christ" dwell in you richly on a daily basis?

What are some of the benefits of public worship?  
Of private worship?

What four descriptions of the Bible are found in Hebrews 4:12?

What is the relationship between humility and grace in 1 Peter 5? Identify one way you can apply this to your life right now.

What does Colossians 1:15-16 reveal about Jesus that surprises or challenges your concept of Him?

What specific actions can you take to show your faith as you wait on God to answer your prayers?

Right now, what is the biggest weight or concern you have?  
Have you handled it?

When faced with temptation to sin, how can you respond with wisdom?

How do you battle temptation?  
What has been most effective for you?

WEEK TWO  
RELEARNING  
HOW TO READ



SIT  
WITH  
ME



**FAITH**  
BIBLE CHURCH

[FAITHBIBLEONLINE.ORG](http://FAITHBIBLEONLINE.ORG)