

Reading the Bible: Where to Start

If you're new to reading/studying the Bible, it can be an intimidating book. But it doesn't have to be! Many people assume they should start at the beginning - makes sense, right? We recommend a different plan. The Bible covers thousands of years of human history. The part that talks about Jesus (the New Testament) is last part of the Bible. That's where we recommend you start. Read the biographies of Jesus. Read about how his friends started communities of Jesus-followers. Armed with that perspective then go back and read the backstory (the Old Testament).

If you don't have a Bible (or if your Bible uses old-English and is difficult to read) we would be thrilled to give you one! There are a variety of good, modern translations; we recommend the New Living Translation for its readability. There's also an app for that! If you want a digital option, we recommend the YouVersion app. It's free and has lots of helpful resources. Whether you choose paper or programming, here's our "getting started" suggestions.

Paper

Read a few chapters a day
to develop a habit of Bible reading.

The Biographies of Jesus
John, Mark, Luke, Matthew

Here's why we like this order: John was the best friend of Jesus. So, you get a behind-the-scenes perspective, Mark is the shortest but is very action packed. Luke is longer and researched to present to a non-Jewish audience. Matthew was written to a Jewish audience - reading the first 3 helps bridge the culture gap.

The 1st Communities of Jesus-Followers
Acts - Jude

The End of Things
Revelation

The Backstory
Genesis - Malachi

YouVersion



Select the "plans" icon in the app.
It looks like this:



Then click on the magnifying glass (🔍)

Search for "bibleproject new"

"BibleProject | New Testament in One Year" will probably be the first option in your search. This reading plan will give you some excellent video introductions to what you are reading and a manageable daily reading plan.

When you finish, go on to explore other BibleProject plans!

Be prepared for a variety of reactions to what you read. Some things you read will simply be context for the larger story. Some things will be encouraging, while other things may challenge or even bother you. Share your reactions with your small group, ministry partner or pastor and it will help you put it all in perspective.