

# Bible for BEGINNERS Guide

HELPING YOU NAVIGATE  
YOUR JOURNEY IN THE WORD OF GOD!



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# WELCOME!

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## OBJECTIVE

HERE AT RONNIE AND MEL MINISTRIES, WE ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT HELPING YOU FIND GOD & WALK WITH HIM IN YOUR DAILY LIFE.

TO DO THAT, WE AIM TO RESOURCE YOU WITH ALL THE TOOLS YOU NEED TO GROW IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

IN THIS BIBLE FOR BEGINNERS SERIES, OUR GOAL IS TO GIVE YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO GET STARTED IN THE BIBLE, INCLUDING: WHY YOU SHOULD READ IT, HOW TO READ IT, WHAT TRANSLATION YOU SHOULD USE, WHERE YOU SHOULD START, WHAT RESOURCES CAN HELP YOU AND MORE.

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR TIME HERE WITH US AND IN THE FUTURE AS YOU BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY IN THE BIBLE.

LOVE & BLESSINGS, RONNIE & MEL

HELLO & THANK YOU FOR DIVING INTO THE BIBLE WITH US. WE ALL KNOW IT CAN BE CONFUSING WHEN YOU FIRST DECIDE TO READ THE BIBLE, BUT HOPEFULLY WE CAN HELP YOU GET STARTED, NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE AT.

THESE TOOLS ARE NOT COMPREHENSIVE & NOT THE ONLY WAY TO READ THE BIBLE. SO LET GOD LEAD YOU AS YOU SEEK TO FIND & KNOW HIM AND LET THESE TOOLS SIMPLY BE A GUIDE ALONG THE WAY. KNOW THAT EVEN NOW HE IS PROUD OF YOU FOR TAKING THIS FIRST STEP TO GET TO KNOW HIM.

## LET'S CONNECT!

WE WANT TO GET CONNECTED WITH YOU! SO MAKE SURE TO FIND US ON INSTAGRAM, FACEBOOK, AND TWITTER AT @RONNIEANDMEL AND SAY HELLO!

WE LOVE SEEING YOU ALL INTERACT WITH THESE RESOURCES AND HEAR THE STORIES OF HOW IT IS IMPACTING YOU, SO MAKE SURE TO SHARE HOW YOU ARE USING THEM AND TAG US IN SO WE CAN SEE! YOU ALSO CAN USE THE HASHTAG #FUELINGYOURFAITHWITHTHEFAISSTS SO YOU CAN SEE OTHERS GROWING IN GOD ALONGSIDE YOU!

AND THIS ENTIRE GUIDE ACTUALLY GOES ALONG WITH OUR VIDEO SERIES, "BIBLE FOR BEGINNERS"! SO CHECK OUT THAT PLAYLIST ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL, RONNIE AND MEL, AND MAKE SURE TO SUBSCRIBE SO YOU DON'T MISS AN EPISODE! (CLICK HERE TO VIEW!)

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# WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

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## TO KNOW WHAT IT ACTUALLY SAYS

RATHER THAN JUST HEARING WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS FROM OTHERS, YOU NEED TO READ IT PERSONALLY SO YOU CAN FORM YOUR OWN OPINION.

## TO KNOW GOD

THE BIBLE IS THE WAY WE LEARN ABOUT WHO GOD IS, WHAT HE HAS DONE, AND WHAT HE WILL DO AND SO THIS REALLY IS THE WAY TO FIND GOD AND KNOW HIM.

## TO HEAR GOD

THE BIBLE IS "THE WORD OF GOD", IT IS WHAT GOD HAS SAID. AND SO IN ORDER TO HEAR FROM GOD, YOU NEED TO LET HIM SPEAK TO YOU THROUGH HIS WORD.

## TO DELIGHT IN IT

THE BIBLE ISN'T BORING, IT ACTUALLY IS EXCITING & IS THE DOORWAY TO EXPERIENCING GOD. WE WANT TO GIVE YOU VISION TO LOVE THE WORD OF GOD.

## YOUR IDENTITY & PURPOSE

THE BIBLE NOT ONLY TELLS US WHO GOD IS, IT TELLS US THE TRUTH OF WHO WE ARE. WITH ALL THE OTHER "VOICES" TRYING TO TELL US WHO WE "SHOULD" BE, ITS CRUCIAL FOR US TO FIND OUT WHO WE ARE MEANT TO BE, AND THE BIBLE HELPS US FIND OUR IDENTITY, PURPOSE, DESTINY, AND MISSION FOR WHY WE WERE CREATED.

## TO KNOW HOW TO LIVE

THE BIBLE INSTRUCTS US AND TELLS US HOW TO LIVE RIGHTLY BEFORE GOD. THE ONE WHO CREATED US KNOWS THE PATHWAY TO A TRUE JOY-FILLED LIFE AND WE WANT TO KNOW HOW TO STAY ON THAT NARROW PATH.

## TO KNOW THE FUTURE

THE BIBLE DOESN'T JUST TELL US OF PAST EVENTS, BUT IT ACTUALLY TELLS US ABOUT OUR FUTURE, ETERNITY, AND WHEN JESUS RETURNS. AND WE WANT TO READ IT SO WE CAN BE PREPARED FOR IT!

# BIBLE READING TIPS

HERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT WE HAVE FOUND HELPFUL WHEN READING THE BIBLE. THESE ARE STILL TIPS WE USE EVEN TODAY THAT WE THINK WILL HELP YOU HAVE THE TOOLS YOU NEED TO FEEL CONFIDENT AS YOU READ THE BIBLE.

AND JUST FOR CLARIFICATION, THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO REALLY APPROACH THE BIBLE. THERE IS IN-DEPTH BIBLE STUDY AND THERE IS DAILY BIBLE READING THAT HELPS YOU TO KNOW GOD AND CONNECT WITH HIM. WE ARE NOT NECESSARILY TEACHING YOU HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE, THOUGH WE DO MENTION A FEW STUDY RESOURCES THAT WILL HELP YOU UNDERSTAND SO THAT YOU CAN CONNECT WITH GOD.

YOU MAY COME UP WITH NEW IDEAS TO HELP YOU, AND THAT IS GREAT! LET THIS SIMPLY BE A SPRINGBOARD THAT YOU CAN JUMP OFF OF.

## SET A TIME & PLACE

FIGURE OUT WHEN YOU CAN SET ASIDE SOME TIME DAILY TO READ THE BIBLE AND KEEP IT CONSISTENT. IT MIGHT BE FIRST THING IN THE MORNING, LUNCH BREAK, OR BEFORE BED. BUT LETS BE HONEST, WHAT DOESN'T GET SCHEDULED, DOESN'T GET DONE.

IT'S ALSO HELPFUL TO HAVE A SPECIFIC PLACE DESIGNATED SO YOU ALWAYS KNOW WHERE & WHEN YOU ARE GOING TO READ THE BIBLE AS PART OF YOUR DAILY ROUTINE.

## READ BOOK BY BOOK

JUST AS YOU WOULD NEVER GRAB A BOOK AND PICK OUT A SENTENCE FROM SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE, YOU SHOULDN'T DO THIS WITH THE BIBLE. THE WORD BIBLE MEANS "A LIBRARY OF BOOKS" AND THEY ARE WRITTEN BY DIFFERENT AUTHORS AT DIFFERENT TIMES SO EACH SHOULD BE READ AS ITS OWN PIECE OF THE WHOLE BIBLICAL STORYLINE. READING FROM THE BEGINNING TO END MAY ALSO BE HELPFUL (MORE ON PAGE 7).

# BIBLE READING TIPS

## HAVE A PLAN

IF YOU FAIL TO PLAN, YOU PLAN TO FAIL AND LIKE WITH EVERY GOAL IN LIFE, YOU NEED TO HAVE A PLAN TO KEEP YOU PUSHING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. PAGE 8 HELPS YOU DIVE DEEPER INTO FINDING A BIBLE PLAN THAT IS RIGHT FOR YOU!

## UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

EVEN THOUGH OUR PURPOSE HERE IS NOT TO TEACH YOU HOW TO GO INTO AN IN-DEPTH BIBLE STUDY, IT IS HELPFUL AT LEAST TO UNDERSTAND THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO THE PART OF THE STORY YOU ARE ABOUT TO READ. KNOWLEDGE ACTUALLY HELPS FUEL RELATIONSHIP. THE MORE YOU KNOW SOMEBODY, THE MORE YOU LOVE THEM. WE BREAK DOWN OUR FAVORITE RESOURCES FOR YOU TO DO THIS ON PAGE 6.

## APPLICATION

THE BIBLE AGAIN IS NOT JUST MEANT FOR INFORMATION, BUT IT'S ALSO NOT JUST FOR CONNECTION... IT'S MEANT FOR TRANSFORMATION. SO TAKE WHAT YOU READ AND SEE HOW YOU CAN TAKE STEPS EACH DAY TO APPLY IT TO YOUR OWN LIFE. WE DON'T JUST WANT TO BE A "HEARER" OF THE WORD, WE WANT TO BE A "DOER".

## PRAY READING

THE BEST WAY WE HAVE FOUND TO READ THE BIBLE IS BY WHAT WE CALL "PRAY-READING". YOU INSERT YOURSELF INTO THE STORY AND LET WHAT YOU READ BECOME YOUR CONVERSATION WITH GOD. TURN THE PHRASES INTO PRAYER, ASK HIM QUESTIONS ABOUT IT, AND LET GOD SPEAK DIRECTLY TO YOU FROM IT.

## WORSHIP

THE BIBLE IS NOT MEANT TO MERELY BE FOR INFORMATION, IT IS MEANT FOR HEART CONNECTION BETWEEN US AND GOD. SO BEGINNING YOUR BIBLE READING SESSION IN WORSHIP IS A GREAT WAY TO CONNECT, NOT JUST OUR MINDS, BUT OUR HEARTS TO GOD AS WE PREPARE TO READ HIS WORD.

## CONFIDENCE

PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT KEY TO CONNECTING WITH GOD THROUGH THE BIBLE IS CONFIDENCE THAT HE ENJOYS YOU, IS PROUD OF YOU, AND WANTS TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND AND LIVE OUT HIS WORD. EVEN IF YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE ANYTHING IS HAPPENING, HAVE FAITH THAT HE DELIGHTS IN YOU AND IS WORKING IN YOU JUST BECAUSE OF YOUR WEAK "YES"!

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# TRANSLATIONS & RESOURCES

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## WHICH BIBLE SHOULD I GET?

HERE ARE A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE BIBLE OPTIONS & TRANSLATIONS: (LINKS TO FIND THEM ARE IN **BLACK**)

BEST OVERALL FOR WOMEN:  
**SHE READS TRUTH BIBLE**

BEST OVERALL FOR MEN:  
**HE READS TRUTH BIBLE**

BEST ONE YEAR BIBLE FOR BEGINNERS: **NLT ONE YEAR CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE (IN ORDER)**

BEST STUDY BIBLE: **NASB INDUCTIVE STUDY BIBLE**

BEST PREMIUM (TOP OF THE LINE) BIBLE:  
**ESV CAMBRIDGE BIBLE**

## BIBLE PROJECT

A GREAT WAY TO GET BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE BIBLE IS THROUGH THE BIBLE PROJECT. THEY HAVE SHORT, ANIMATED VIDEOS EXPLAINING EVERY BOOK OF THE BIBLE. YOU CAN WATCH THEM [HERE](#) ON YOUTUBE!

## DAVID PAWSON

THE ONLY BOOK YOU WILL EVER NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE BACKGROUND OF EVERY BOOK OF THE BIBLE IS DAVID PAWSON'S "UNLOCKING THE BIBLE". BEST & MOST SIMPLE RESOURCE WE HAVE FOUND AND YOU CAN GET IT [RIGHT HERE!](#)

## BIBLE DICTIONARY

IT IS HELPFUL TO HAVE A BIBLE DICTIONARY ON HAND WHEN YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT DIFFERENT WORDS MEAN BECAUSE, TRUST US YOU WILL. HERE ARE TWO DIFFERENT OPTIONS: **ILLUSTRATED & COMPACT**

## JOURNALING

ANOTHER HUGE PART OF BIBLE READING IS JOURNALING. IT'S WRITING DOWN YOUR CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD, WHAT YOU LEARN, REMEMBERING WHAT HE HAS SPOKEN, ETC. **THESE ARE OUR FAVORITE!**

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# BIBLE OVERVIEW

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## SO WHERE DO I START?

THERE ARE DIFFERENT APPROACHES AS TO WHERE YOU SHOULD BEGIN READING THE BIBLE, SO YOU JUST NEED TO DECIDE WHAT WILL WORK BEST FOR YOU!

START IN THE GOSPELS: MOST PEOPLE THINK ITS BEST TO START OUT BY READING THE LIFE OF JESUS SINCE HE IS THE ONE THE WHOLE REST OF THE BIBLE POINTS TO. THE BOOK OF JOHN OR LUKE WOULD BE THE BEST TO START WITH. YOU CAN FOLLOW THIS WITH READING THE WHOLE NEW TESTAMENT.

START IN THE BEGINNING: OTHERS LIKE TO START ALL THE WAY AT THE BEGINNING AND READ UNTIL THE END. THIS CAN BE MORE DIFFICULT TO GRASP IT AND APPLY IT TO YOUR LIFE, BUT ALSO IS GREAT TO UNDERSTAND THE WHOLE STORYLINE.

## OLD TESTAMENT

THE OLD TESTAMENT IS MADE UP OF 39 BOOKS BY MANY DIFFERENT AUTHORS, BUT ONE DIVINE EDITOR, GOD! IT BEGINS WITH THE "TORAH" WHICH INCLUDES THE CREATION STORY AND THE BEGINNING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD. WE ALSO HAVE HISTORICAL BOOKS, WHICH CONTINUE THE STORYLINE OF GOD'S PEOPLE, THE POETRY BOOKS, WHICH INCLUDE THE FAMOUS PSALMS, AND PROPHETIC BOOKS WHICH WERE MESSAGES DIRECTLY FROM GOD TO THE PEOPLE OF THAT DAY & THE FUTURE.

## NEW TESTAMENT

THE NEW TESTAMENT IS MADE UP OF 27 BOOKS BY, AGAIN, MANY DIFFERENT AUTHORS WHO WERE ALL INSPIRED BY GOD. THE NEW TESTAMENT BEGINS WITH 4 ACCOUNTS OF THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF JESUS, CALLED THE GOSPELS, WHO WAS THE PROMISED "KING TO COME" FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT. WE ALSO HAVE THE STORY OF THE FIRST CENTURY "CHURCH" WHICH IS FOLLOWED BY THE "LETTERS" WRITTEN BY THE APOSTLES TO INSTRUCT THE CHURCHES & US TODAY. THE BIBLE ENDS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION WHICH REVEALS THE END OF GOD'S STORYLINE & ETERNITY.

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# HAVING A PLAN

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## BIBLE PLANS

HERE ARE SOME OF OUR FAVORITE BIBLE PLANS TO GET YOU STARTED:

A PSALM A DAY: "KEEPS THE DEVIL AWAY" (LOL) WE LIKE TO START OUT EACH MORNING WITH A PSALM AND JUST READ THEM TIL YOU GET THROUGH THEM ALL. (PAIR THIS WITH ANOTHER PLAN)

ONE YEAR BIBLE: THERE ARE A FEW OPTIONS ON THIS, ONE WAS BUYING THE CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE (ABOVE), THERE IS ALSO ONE THAT GIVES YOU A LITTLE OT, NT, PSALM AND PROVERB EACH DAY.

NEW TESTAMENT IN 30 DAYS: THIS ONE IS A LOT OF READING BUT IS GREAT TO REALLY GO DEEP.

YOUVERSION: DOWNLOAD THE YOUVERSION BIBLE APP FOR TONS OF BIBLE PLANS INCLUDING BOTH OF THE ONES MENTIONED ABOVE, PLANS AROUND A CERTAIN TOPIC, AND MANY MORE. YOU CAN EVEN READ THESE PLANS TOGETHER WITH FRIENDS TO REALLY KEEP YOU GOING.

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

LIKE WE MENTIONED BEFORE, IF YOU FAIL TO PLAN, YOU PLAN TO FAIL, AND IT IS THE SAME WITH YOUR BIBLE READING. LETS FACE IT, WE ARE ALL JUST SO BUSY AND CONSUMED WITH OTHER THINGS THAT IF WE DON'T HAVE A PLAN TO HELP US READ MORE OF THE BIBLE, WE JUST WON'T GET TO IT. YOU WILL READ FAR MORE IF YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE READING THAT DAY & DON'T HAVE TO WASTE A BUNCH OF TIME FIGURING OUT WHERE TO START.

## LAST THOUGHTS

ALL OF THESE THINGS CAN BE HELPFUL, BUT DON'T BEAT YOURSELF UP IF YOU DON'T HIT THE MARK PERFECTLY. IT'S NOT ABOUT PERFECTION, IT'S ABOUT HAVING A WILLING HEART. THE LAST THING GOD WOULD WANT IS FOR YOU TO THINK "LOVING HIM" OR "FOLLOWING HIM" IS JUST A TO-DO LIST. IT'S NOT! SO JUST LET THESE BE TOOLS TO GET YOUR HEART CLOSER TO HIS. YOU CAN'T EARN HIS LOVE, BUT YOU CAN POSITION YOURSELF TO RECEIVE IT. HE LOVES EVERY SMALL STEP TOWARD HIM.

WE PRAY THIS HELPS YOU AS YOU BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY IN THE BIBLE AND BE SURE TO LOOK OUT FOR MORE RESOURCES COMING YOUR WAY!

LOVE & BLESSINGS, RONNIE AND MEL