

the Bible |

The Bible is the biggest best seller of all times, translated into more languages and read by more people than any other single book. Despite its popularity, many people today are completely unfamiliar with it. Where did the Bible come from? How do we know if the events recorded in the Bible really happened? How is the Bible relevant to my life today? This pamphlet is designed to answer some basic questions and hopefully help you better understand and benefit from the Bible.

how to get started reading the Bible...

It is essential as a Christian, you regularly read the Bible. This is how you will grow and mature spiritually as well as how God will speak to you. Here are a few practical suggestions to get you started:

- 1 Get yourself an easy translation of the Bible. I recommend the New Living Translation (NLT), the Message and the New King James (NKJV).
- 2 Begin by reading the gospels, which tell the story of the life of Jesus.
- 3 Start out reading whatever amount is manageable for you.
- 4 Eventually develop a bible reading plan to follow that will systematically take you through the Bible in a year.

5 Consider investing in a "study" bible which includes helpful background information that will increase your understanding of what you read.

6 Make time to read your Bible. Like anything in life, if you don't make time for it, it won't happen. Don't over do it, but don't shortchange yourself either. You should have a quiet time everyday (a time you devote to God for reading his word and prayer).

7 The Bible is not arranged in chronological order, which can make reading through it confusing. The various books are grouped instead by the type of writings they are - law or history or poetry for example. It's best to start with a certain book of the Bible and read it's entirety, not jump around.

8 The New Testament is a great place to start. The first four books are considered the "gospels." Matthew, Mark and Luke are known as the "synoptic gospels", which comes from greek words that literally mean to be seen together. All four gospels primarily deal with the life and events of Christ.

9 Other helpful tools that allow you to read God's word while receiving insight and application are: devotional books, study bibles, commentaries, and promise books that deal with specific topics such as worry, loneliness, etc.

10 Always pray before you begin to read and after you have read. As you read ask questions like: who, where, what, why and when. Praying and asking these questions will help you find application for your life, from God's word.

