

The 27 books of the New Testament pick up the story beginning with the birth of Jesus.

God and his plan of redemption

Beginning in Genesis, you are immediately introduced to a love story of a sovereign, merciful, loving God, who is the Creator of all things. The Bible contains the very words of God, which means they are real, they are true, and they are trustworthy (2 Timothy 3:16).

The Bible also reveals who we are compared to a holy and perfect God. We are sinful and broken in our natural state, separated from God. But the great news the Bible tells us is that we can be redeemed through a savior, Jesus Christ.

Jesus and freedom from sin

God sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to earth to die for the sins that separated us from God. Because of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, and His resurrection, our sins were forgiven, and our lives are reconciled with God. The Bible was given to us so that we would “believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life” (1 John 5:13). And in knowing Jesus through the Bible, we would be set free from sin and death (John 8:31-32).

How to Read the Bible

Begin with the Gospels: The Gospels (which means “good news”): Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. They are the best place to start because they introduce you to the incarnate God, Jesus Christ. These Gospels narrates his earthly ministry, his death, his burial, and his resurrection. But which one should you read?

For a quick read, go with Mark. This 16-chapter Gospel is fast-paced and fact-based concerning the most significant events in Jesus's life. While not as detailed as the other three Gospels, Mark will give you a quick overview of the life and work of Jesus. If you are looking for a more in-depth look at the life and work of Jesus, read The Gospel of John. This Gospel was written by John,

who undeniably presents Jesus as the true Messiah, the Savior of mankind, and the Author of our salvation.

Pick a time: Pick a time of day when you would like to spend time reading the Bible. It could be early morning, before your spouse or kids get up when the house is yours and all is quiet. It could be during your lunch break at work. Or even at night before you go to bed. Try to read every day to get into the practice of regularly reading God's Word.

Start with a prayer: Invite the Holy Spirit—whom you received when you accepted Jesus—into your sacred time when you read the Bible. As your “helper” (John 14:26), one of his ministries is to teach you “all things” (John 14:26) and to “guide you into all truth” (John 16:13). You would be wise to seek out his help when it comes to understanding and interpreting the Bible.

Start by reading small portions of the Bible at first: a long passage or one chapter a day. Read for about 10–15 minutes. Don't overwhelm yourself by reading an entire book in one sitting (at least not just yet). Savor each word, each phrase. Take time to think about what you read. Think about what the Scripture is telling you. When you sense something special about a verse or portion of Scripture, write about it. Journaling is a wonderful way to express your thoughts, feelings, prayers, and praises. And don't forget to find the application in what you read: whether it is a promise to claim, a warning to heed, or a command to follow. Allow the Spirit to help you understand the Scripture, and He will transform your life from a life of sin to a life pleasing to the heart of God.

The Bible is more than just a good book, it is the Book of Life, which leads to life in Jesus Christ. It enables us to know God in all His majesty and glory, to know ourselves in all our sinfulness and brokenness, and the way of redemption and restoration.