

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE *With Purpose*

A Study Led by Randy Broberg
at Maranatha Chapel,
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Why Read the Bible?



It helps us avoid sin

Psalm 119:9-16:

- How can a young person maintain a pure life?
 - By guarding it according to your instructions!
- With all my heart I seek you.
- Do not allow me to stray from your commands!
- In my heart I store up your words,
 - so I might not sin against you.
- You deserve praise, O Lord!
- Teach me your statutes!

It assists our consciences

Hebrews 4:12



- For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a critic of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

It equips us for good works

2 Timothy 3:16-17

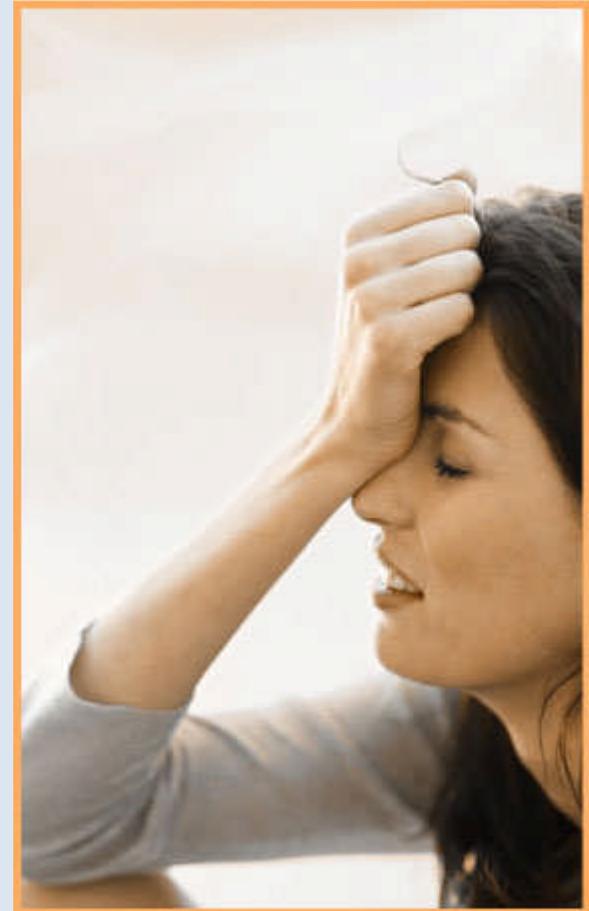
- All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.



It helps us when we most need help

Psalm 119:25-28:

- **I collapse in the dirt.**
- Revive me with your word!
- **Help me to understand what your precepts mean!**
- Then I can meditate on your marvelous teachings.
- **I collapse from grief.**
- Sustain me by your word!



It encourages us

Romans 15:4:

- For everything that was written in former times was written for our instruction, so that through endurance and through encouragement of the scriptures we may have hope.



By it we grow!

Acts 20:32

- And now I entrust you to God and to the message of his grace. This message is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.



We love it!

Psalm 119:47-48:

- I will find delight in your commands,
– which I love.
- I will lift my hands to your commands,
– which I love,
- and I will meditate on your statutes.



How do we Read the Bible?



Prayer

Psalm 119:18:

- Open my eyes
– so I can truly see
the marvelous
things in your
law!



Prayer Requests

Psalm 119:33-37

- **Teach me**, O Lord, the lifestyle prescribed by your statutes,
 - so that I might observe it continually.
- **Give me understanding**
 - so that I might observe your law,
 - and keep it with all my heart.
- **Guide me** in the path of your commands,
 - for I delight to walk in it.
- **Give me a desire** for your rules,
 - rather than for wealth gained unjustly.
- **Turn my eyes away from what is worthless!**
- **Revive me with your word!**

Priorities

Psalm 119:147-148

- I rise before the dawning of the morning,
 And cry for help;
 I hope in Your word.
 ¹My eyes are awake through the *night* watches,
 That I may meditate on Your word



Stopping Our bad habits

- The comfy chair
- The bed!
- Last thing to do before going to sleep



Circumstances

- Be alert
- Sit at a table
- Take Notes
- Requires time, concentration, effort, etc.



Journal it!

- Requires time, concentration, effort.
- Make notes.
- Keep a record of answers.
- Use a Journal



How To Read the Bible

Read It with a purpose



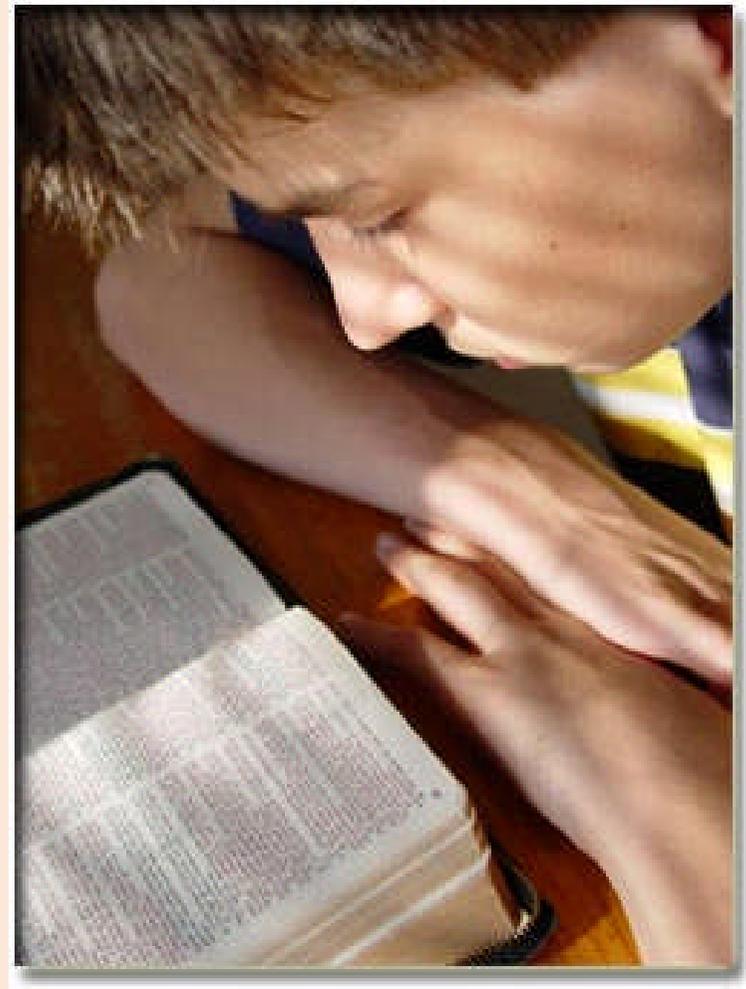
Reading with a purpose: Effects

- Heightened alertness
- Posture change
- Eyes alert
- Scanning, looking, searching, seeking
- active, not passive reading.



Reading with a purpose: **Effects**

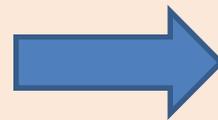
- Taking Notes
- Retention/ Memory



Reading with Purpose

Sample Questions about God

- **How does the passage describe God?**
 - What names of God are used?
 - What are God's character traits (attributes)?
 - Does the passage describe any aspect of God's emotions or other personality traits?
 - What are God's motivations or objectives?
- **How does the passage describe God's relationship with mankind?**
 - How does God attitude toward mankind?
 - How does God describe Himself?
 - What does God want us to do??



*Works best with Job,
Psalms and the Prophets*

Reading with Purpose

Sample Questions about Jesus

- **Who is Jesus**

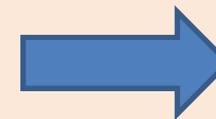
- Is He Divine?
- Is He human?
- Is He equal or inferior to the Father?
- Was He Created?

- **What kind of a man was Jesus?**

- Was he outgoing or private?
- What emotions did he display
- What were his personality traits?

- **How did Jesus interact with other people?**

- How did he treat children?
- How did he treat women
- How did he relate to men?
- How did he handle religious leaders?
- How did he interact with Gentiles, sinners, tax collectors, etc.?



*Works best
with Gospels*

Reading with Purpose

Sample Questions about Mankind

- **How does the passage describe unsaved mankind?**
 - What are different words use for sin or the power of sin?
 - How does it describe the relationship the unsaved person and God have?
 - What is the consequence of sin for the unsaved?
- **How does the passage describe saved mankind?**
 - What are different words use to describe believers?
 - How does it describe the relationship the saved person and God have?
 - What are the consequences of being saved?



Works best with Epistles

Reading with Purpose

Sample Questions about Salvation

- **How does the passage answer these questions?**

- What is salvation?
- What does being “saved” mean?
- Saved from what exactly?
- Is it permanent?
- How does one “get saved”?
- What’s the role of the Law?
- What role, if any, does good works play?
- Why did Jesus have to die?
- What’s the role of Christ’s death?
- What is faith? What does it mean, exactly?
- What is the importance of the resurrection of Christ?



*Works best
with Epistles*

Reading with Purpose

Other Sample Questions

- **Questions about prayer.**
 - why and when do the people pray?
 - How do they pray?
 - How does God respond?
- **Questions about living and godliness.**
 - What habits sustain godly living?
 - What are the early warning signs of trouble brewing?
 - What mistakes do the characters make?
 - What are the consequences of their failures?
 - If the characters remain faithful, what tips do they have for us?
 - What are the consequences of their faithfulness?

 *Works best with History*

Helpful Books

- ***How To Read a Book, by Mortimer Adler***
- ***How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth*** by Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart
- ***How to Read the Bible Book by Book*** by Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart