

# Living Word Christian Church

## New Believers Bible Reading Guide

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- **Never read the Bible before?**
- **Haven't read your Bible for a long time?**
- **Tried reading the Bible before but had a hard time making sense of it?**

Try this simple plan and expect the Lord to open your eyes to marvelous spiritual truths!

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*Regular reading and Bible study are essential to understanding God and His will and to spiritual growth.*

- *Jesus said, "Search the Scriptures..." (John 5:39), and*
- *If you continue in My Word...the truth shall make you free..." (John 8:31-32).*
- *2 Timothy 2:15 instructs us to, "Study to show yourself approved...."*
- *And the most prominent and lengthy chapter in the whole Bible by far is Psalm chapter 119 (containing 176 verses) – every one of them communicates the importance of God's Word!*

### **STEP 1: Pray**

- a) Ask the Lord to give you (Ephesians 1:17-19) "the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him" – opening the eyes of your understanding.
- b) Ask the Holy Spirit to (John 16:13) "guide you into all truth", helping you to understand and comprehend what you read, and lead and guide you in the Scriptures.
- c) Ask the Lord (Colossians 1:9) to "fill you with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding."

### **STEP 2: Have a Set Time to Read Your Bible Each Day**

For some people, this works best right away in the morning; for others, the last thing at night. Whenever it works best for you, set aside a few minutes **EVERY DAY** to read God's Word. (Acts 17:11 "They received the Word with all readiness of mind and searched the Scriptures daily....")

*\* If you miss a day, or two, don't feel guilty or beat yourself up over it. You can always pick up where you left off and/or catch up.*

### **STEP 3: Read the Bible for Yourself**

Expect to find instructions and directions – things that you can apply to your life.  
Expect to find answers and encouragement as well.

### **STEP 4: Set Your Own Pace**

I recommend that you read at least one chapter per day (at the same setting). You may choose to read more, but make that your decision. Just because someone else reads five to ten chapters a day doesn't mean you have to. Start with one – you can always work your way up.

*\* Many find it valuable to read a chapter then come back later that day and re-read it.*

## **STEP 5: Begin with the Gospel of Mark**

I recommend that the first time through the Bible (or the first few times through) that you begin in the Gospel of Mark. This is the most compact of the Gospels – only 16 chapters. When finished, move into the next Gospel, the Book of Luke, which contains a bit more detail.

Follow that by reading through the Book of Acts, which was also written by Luke. Acts is the history book of the early New Testament believers. Following the Book of Acts, you'll find a number of letters (Epistles), written to new believers in various locations. I recommend that you read all of these letters, beginning with the letter to the Romans and continuing through the New Testament to the Book of Jude. The last book of the New Testament is the Book of Revelation. While some parts of this book are quite deep and difficult to grasp, the value and benefit of going through it outweighs any potential struggle. I especially recommend reading the first five chapters and the last four (chapters 19-22). These give us a glimpse of Heaven and of the majestic splendor of our great God and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.

After your first time through, you may desire to repeat this reading schedule or you may wish to read all four Gospels. Much truth is also available in the Old Testament. I recommend that you never stop reading the New Testament daily, but adding in portions of the Old Testament to your daily study may benefit you as well. You may consider beginning in the book of Proverbs. Proverbs is a book of wisdom and contains 31 chapters. Reading one chapter each day will greatly bless you! The Psalms (150 chapters) contains many prayers, hymns, songs of praise, etc. and is also a great blessing.

After becoming more familiar with your Bible, you may want to purchase a "Read Through the Bible in a Year" Study Bible. This allows you, on an annual basis, to search the Scriptures completely.

*\* There are a number of different versions of the Bible. I recommend you start with a New King James or Revised Standard, but settle on a translation/version that best suits you.*

## **STEP 6: Meditate**

After reading the Bible, it's important to (Psalm 1:2) meditate on what you have read. Pause and reflect after you are finished and continue to think on it through the day. Consider the instructions that you've received from God's Word and practical ways that you might apply them to your individual situation. Ponder the promises of God's Word – those things that the Bible assures you God will do or has provided for you. If parts of Scripture seem confusing to you at first, don't get stuck on those; we all grow in our understanding of God and His will.

## **STEP 7: Thank the Lord**

Thank the Lord for all that He is doing in your life! Believe Philippians 2:13 – that "God is working in you to both be willing and to be a doer of what pleases Him." Know that Scripture – and the study of it – is (2 Timothy 3:16-17) profiting you and is developing/equipping/maturing you into the person that the Lord has destined you to be.

*Once you've started reading your Bible regularly, I'd recommend that you obtain the three-part DVD or CD series "How to Study Your Bible" by Dr. Mark T. Barclay ([www.marktbarclay.com](http://www.marktbarclay.com)).*

**Enjoy your Bible!  
Be blessed!!**