

BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO READ THE BIBLE

By Gabby's Happy Place

A simple, no-stress plan for beginners + real motivation to keep going! I promise it will change your life!

Embarking on a journey to read the Bible can be both exciting and intimidating. First of all, I want you to know that God already loves you. You will get to know Him better as you read His word but He already knows you and your heart. With that been said, let's start this journey!

1. Choose a Version:

- There are **many translations of the Bible**, each with its own style and readability. My first Bible was a King James Version and because of the old English I struggled to understand it. **The New International Version (NIV)** or the **English Standard Version (ESV)** are often the ones that are recommended for beginners because they have a "simpler" English. **Pro tip:** The Bible App by You Version (also [available for desktop](#)) have multiple versions. If you want to try some translations and find the one that feels easier to you then that's a good way to do it before you buy your first physical Bible.

2. Set a Plan:

- Decide on a reading plan that suits your pace and interests. Some people follow a chronological plan, read from Genesis to Revelation, or focus on a particular section, such as the Gospels or Psalms.
- I personally recommend to **start with the book of John**. And once you have read about the life of Jesus, His teachings and what He did so *you can be saved*, then start "from the beginning" with Genesis and making your way until 1 Samuel. Why 1 Samuel? Because you will meet a very important person in the Bible: David. I would read my way through Psalms and Proverbs every time that I need a little "pick me up" and a reminder of how great God is. After that we need a little refresh of the Gospel: read Matthew, and then go back to 2 Samuel and make your way to Psalms (which by this point hopefully you already finished both Psalms and Proverbs, if not, read them.). Can you guess what comes next? Another Gospel refresh: read Mark. Next we are finishing the Old Testament! Ecclesiastes to Malachi. We made it to the New Testament! Read the last Gospel we haven't read yet: Luke. Last: Acts to Revelation, which are about the early days of the Church and what we as Christians are waiting and preparing for: the second coming of Jesus Christ.
- I know it sounds easy when put like that but it WILL take time. No need to rush. Use this time reading to build block by block your relationship with God.

3. Pray every time you open your Bible before you start reading:

- Pray for understanding and wisdom. Let God show you through His living word what He wants for you. Pray for an open mind and a soft heart to learn His ways. Pray for guidance.

4. Use Study Tools:

- Consider using a study Bible or [online resources](#) if you need explanations and context for the passages. This can help your understanding of the historical context (mostly for the Old Testament because some people take it out of context) and provide valuable insights. I also like using maps to understand where the places that the Bible mention are.

5. Reflect and Journal:

- Take time to reflect on what you've read and how it applies to your life. Journaling your thoughts and insights can help reinforce learning and provide a record of your spiritual journey. It's a great way to have a physical proof of how much you grow the closer you grow to God.

6. Join a Group:

- Finding a Bible study group can offer support, more perspectives, and encouragement. A safe place to have discussions can enhance your comprehension and give you a chance to ask questions.

7. Share your journey:

- I love hearing about what people learn while reading the Bible and their journey with God so if you feel comfortable feel free to share with me! @gabbyshappyplace on Instagram or you can email me at: gabbyshappyplace@gmail.com

Remember, reading the Bible is a personal journey, and there is no one "right" way to do it. Take your time, be patient with yourself, and enjoy the profound wisdom of God. Don't forget that His Word is alive. The Bible is **not a history book**. God was, is and will forever and ever be the King of Creation.

Key concepts to understand the Bible:

Old Testament: The story of Israel before the coming of Jesus.

New Testament: The story of Jesus Christ on earth, His death and Resurrection. The early Church and the Second Coming of Jesus.

Gospels: Wrote by the apostles. They narrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. THIS is where you get to meet Jesus and all the amazing things He did on earth.

Bible Reading Plan

Here's a guide for the first book of the Bible that I recommend you to start your journey with. John has 21 chapters and I made this 16-day guide with some extra notes so you can understand more about the timeline of the life of Jesus.

- John 1
- John 2

- John 3
- John 4
- John 5
- John 6 & 7
- John 8 & 9
- John 10 & 11
- John 12 - Palm Sunday. The beginning of the Holy Week.
- John 13
- John 14 & 15
- John 16 & 17
- John 18 - Thursday night. The Last Supper. He is arrested. Trials.
- John 19 - Good Friday. Crucifixion and death of Jesus.
- John 20 - Resurrection. Easter Sunday.
- John 21

