

Table of Contents

Introduction 4

The Bible, God’s Message to Us 5

 Why the Bible Was Written 6

 How to Read and Respond to the Bible 8

What the Bible Says About Itself 11

How to Use the Bible. 13

Bible Reading Tips 15

Bible Reading Plan 18

Learning to Pray 29

Bible Memory 36

 Some Tips for Memorizing Bible Verses 37

 Fighter Verses™ 38

 About Truth78 46

Introduction

Reading the Bible is not like reading any other book. You can read and understand the words, but only God can help you to love what you are reading.

*Your testimonies are my delight; they are my counselors.
(Psalm 119:24)*

Only God can help you to meet Him in His Word so that you might love Him, trust Him, respect Him, and obey Him.

*Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; unite
my heart to fear your name. (Psalm 86:11)*

And only God can make the Bible speak not only to your mind but to your heart and your will as well.

*Give me understanding that I may keep your law and observe
it with my whole heart. (Psalm 119:34)*

That is why Bible reading must be paired with prayer.

*Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your
law. (Psalm 119:18)*

This booklet may help you as you learn to read the Bible, pray for understanding and a right heart, and work to memorize Bible verses. Read it section by section, thinking about what it teaches and try to practice what you have learned. It is most helpful if you can read and talk about this booklet with a parent or other adult.

May this booklet help you to love the Bible and, more importantly, the God who reveals Himself in His Word.

Sample

The Bible, God's Message to Us

The Bible is an ancient book full of God's mystery and truth, full of wonder and power.

In it, you will read about two great lights, the greater one to rule the day and the lesser one to rule the night; trees that clap their hands; young lions that roar for their prey; creatures of the sea that can't be counted; stars that sing; man formed from the dust of the ground; storehouses of snow and hail...and the God who made them all.

In it, you will read of a great flood, a dry path through the sea, bread that fell from heaven, a mighty shout and crumbling city walls, an army defeated with lanterns, a meal in the wilderness provided by birds, coins in a fish's mouth, blind people who could see again, a fierce storm made calm...and the God who did all these things.

You will read of a people chosen by God, given a promise of blessing and a law to follow, living in rebellion against their Creator, taken captive...punished but not forgotten or forsaken.

And you will read of a Redeemer, the only Son of God, promised by the prophets, born of Mary...the one who came to set the captives free, to save His people from their sinful, darkened hearts and sinful ways...who lives forever in heaven.

This ancient book, the Holy Bible, is unique and one of a kind. There is no other book like it, because this book was not written *only* by man, but *also* by God. The God who created the world and everything in it gave His message to the world. Everything that the Bible says is TRUE. It is God's only and final written Word to His people. It cannot be added to or subtracted from (Revelation 22:18-19).

The Bible was written *by* God, and it was written *about* God. God is the most important person in the Bible. Of course, the Bible is full of all sorts of people. There are ordinary people like Ruth,

Bible Reading Tips

1 Have a Plan

Have a plan for what you will do in your Bible time. You may choose the Bible Reading Plan that follows this section or another plan, or you could make up your own. Whatever you decide to do, have a plan of what you will read.

2 Have a Time

We eat three times a day because we set times to eat. Set a time for your Bible time (in the morning before school, as soon as you get home, before bed, etc.). If you think that you will *just get around to it*, you may not.

3 Have a Place

Find a quiet place where you will not be distracted or interrupted for your Bible reading time. It should be comfortable but not so comfortable that you fall asleep!

4 Have the Right Tools

It is helpful to keep your Bible reading tools together. Important tools are a Bible, pen, and notebook. You may also want a dictionary for looking up unfamiliar words.

How to Read Effectively

- You may want to read the steps of PRAY, MEDITATE, and APPLY from pages earlier in this booklet.
- Read the WHOLE passage through once QUICKLY to get the general idea. Then read it SECTION BY SECTION more SLOWLY, and think about what you are reading.
- Remember to ask QUESTIONS about what you are reading. A good start is Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

Bible Reading Plan

There are two ways you can use this Bible Reading Plan:

- 1 Read through all the Old Testament sections. Then read through all the New Testament sections.
- 2 Alternate Old and New Testament sections. For example: Read through the first Old Testament section; then read through the first New Testament section; read through the second Old Testament section; etc.

You do not have to read each Scripture portion in one sitting. Just read as much as you are able to read. When you finish that portion, check the box.

Younger children may choose to read just the portions in **bold** the first time through the Bible Reading Program. Mark the first box (on the left). Then read all the portions the next time. This time mark the second box.

The Old Testament readings are in historical order (the order in which they happened). So you will find some passages from other books under some of the book headings.

Note: It might be helpful to add a sticky note to this page so that you can more easily find this section as you use the reading plan.

Sample

OLD TESTAMENT	NEW TESTAMENT
GENESIS	MATTHEW
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 1
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 2
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 3
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 4
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 6	<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 5
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 6
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 7
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 9	<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 8
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 11:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 9
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 12	<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 10
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 13	<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 11
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 12
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 16	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 13
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 17	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 14
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 18	<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 15
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 19:1-29	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 16
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 20	<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 17
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 21	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 18
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 22	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 19
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 24	<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 20
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 25	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 21:1-17
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 26:1-5	<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 22
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 27	<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 23
<input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 28	<input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 24
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 29	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 25
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 30	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 26
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 31	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 27
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 32	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 28
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 33	
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 35	

Sample

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. –Romans 10:17

How is faith cultivated in the heart of a child? We would correctly answer by stating that the Holy Spirit draws a child's heart to love and admire God. But Romans 10:17 shows us that the Holy Spirit uses means, the greatest of which is the living and active Word of God. When your child holds the God-breathed Scriptures, opens its pages and begins to read unshakable biblical truth, and then ponders its meaning and implications, your child has the life-changing opportunity to meet God Himself. What a gift when we give children God's Word!

This booklet was written so your child can experience the tangible opportunity of meeting the living God in His holy Word. Though the Bible is simple enough for children to understand, it is also complex enough to confound scholars. By introducing some tangible tools to help read and understand the Scriptures; apply it in real-life situations; and act in faith, trusting in God's Word, your child's experience of reading the Bible can become richer and deeper...and God may be pleased to nurture faith in your child's heart.

This booklet explains ...

- The Bible, God's Message to Us
- What the Bible Says About Itself
- How to Use the Bible
- Bible Reading Tips
- Bible Reading Plan
- Learning to Pray
- Bible Memory

May this booklet help your child to love the Bible and, more importantly, the God who reveals Himself in His Word.

Sally Michael is a prolific author of curricula, books, and resources for parents and children. She co-founded Truth78 with her husband, David, out of a passion for developing resources to teach the whole counsel of God to children in the church and home. She served for 16 years as minister to children under the leadership of John Piper, whose preaching and teaching helped form the theological and doctrinal commitments that define her writing. David and Sally have two daughters, a son-in-law, and three grandchildren. They live in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Truth78 is a vision-oriented ministry for the next generations—that they may know, honor, and treasure God, setting their hope in Christ alone, so that they will live as faithful disciples for the glory of God.

Truth:78 /

Equipping the Next Generations
to Know, Honor, and Treasure God

Truth78.org

