



## Online School of the Bible

### How to Develop a Habit of Bible Reading

**1) Establish a Consistent, Daily pattern of Bible reading** – Pick a quiet, comfortable place that is free from distractions. Pick a time when you are alert that is consistently available in your schedule. Establishing a routine is vital in establishing a good habit of Bible reading. Reading your Bible at the same time and same place every day is very helpful in establishing that routine.

Follow a reading plan and don't get overwhelmed by reading too much. Read even when you don't feel like it and don't ever give up. (Even if you miss a day or two) Don't get caught up in complicated Bible reading systems or studies. Keep it simple. The plan I use is one that I made myself: [The 90 Day Challenge](#) (Don't be scared by the title, you can take longer than 90 days to read the Bible)

**2) Select a Bible version and translation that you like and is easy to understand.**

I recommend the New Living Translation. It is an accurate modern English Bible translation that is easy to read and understand.

**3) Pray for God to help you understand what you're reading.** Always pray with the attitude that you want to obey the Bible and put it into action. Don't get discouraged if you don't understand something. Write down any questions you have and obey the things that you do understand.

**4) Keep a Bible Notebook** – Get in the habit of recording the insights from which you glean from your daily reading and study. Also, don't be afraid to mark up your Bible. Underline or highlight important verses, key words, and phrases, and write notes and observations in the margins.

**5) Think about what you read** – In order to get the most out of our Bible reading, it is helpful to think about what you read. Think about it over and over again during the day. It's kind of like a cow chewing its cud. It keeps bringing up the same grass all day long and chews on it again and again. The Bible calls this process meditating on God's word.

**6) Make it Personal** – Our meditation on the word of God must involve considering how the truths we learn apply practically to our lives.

Questions to consider about the passage:

1) **Who** were the people involved?

2) **What** happened, what ideas were expressed, what were the results?

3) **Where** did the events take place?

4) **When** did the events take place?

5) **Why** did it happen?

6) **How** does it relate to me?

(A good Study Bible will help in answering these questions)

**Other questions which help personalizing:**

1) Was there a sin for me to avoid?

2) Was there a promise for me to claim?

3) Was there an example to follow?

4) Was there a command to obey?

5) Was there a new truth learned which can help me mature as a Christian?

**7) Use Bible helps and reference books to assist you in your Bible study** – In my opinion, the number one Bible study help is a good Study Bible. I recommend the New Living Translation Life Application Study Bible, or the New Living Translation Study Bible. Read the footnotes and consider how you can put the scripture into action. Other good resources include Bible handbooks and Bible dictionaries.

**8) Choose an accountability Partner** – Pick a person who you trust that you can give permission to hold you accountable for reading the Bible. Tell your accountability partner what your Bible Reading Plan is and give that person permission to ask you on a regular basis how your reading plan is going.

**My Bible Reading Plan**

Time:

Place:

Number of Chapters:

Accountability Partner:

After you are on your way to a habit of regular Bible reading, please drop me an email and let me know how you did it and any insights you have gained so far. I would be greatly encouraged to hear about the progress you are making on your great adventure with Jesus Christ.

<mailto:rick@graftonriveroflife.com>

P.S. – Don't skip the part about the accountability partner. It's very important!