

BIBLE READING TIPS

1. Just read it (God wrote us a love letter – shouldn't we read it?)
2. Set a certain part of your day/week to read
3. Start and end with a prayer.
 - a. Start: Ask the Holy Spirit to help you *understand* what you read
 - b. End: Ask the Holy Spirit to help you *live* what you read
4. Set *small* goals at first (Example: Read for 1 minute or 1 chapter before bed)
5. Start with the GOSPELS and pray with the PSALMS
6. Re-read parts of the Bible that you're already familiar with (you'll be surprised at how God can make an old story/verse new again!)
7. Look things up you don't understand (footnotes, cross references, Google, ask a priest, Mr. Aitchison, etc.)
8. Interact with your Bible! Highlight, underline, circle, star, write your own commentary in the margins, write the date that you read that particular verse, etc.
9. Read a *Catholic* Bible (one that has ALL 73 books of the Bible and extra notes from famous Catholic theologians and saints)
10. Remember that the Bible isn't a book. It's a library! Each book is completely unique, so don't read them all the exact same way.
11. Know what the Bible is – and what it isn't. The Bible is the story of God's relationship with the people he has called to himself. It is *not* intended to be read as a science book, an encyclopedia, or a political manifesto.
12. Read the Bible in context. What happens before and after a verse or a story in the Bible helps us to understand the true meaning of the text. (Example: Psalm 14:1b)
13. The Old Testament is full of New Testament puzzle pieces and the New Testament is full of Old Testament references.
14. You do not read alone. Remember that countless others have become saints by following the words of God in the Bible. You can too!
15. The Bible wasn't only written for priests and nuns. It was written for you and for me. So when reading, ask God, "What are you trying to say to *me*?"
16. Even though the details in the Bible are important, don't get too caught up in them. Instead, focus on the big-picture.
17. The first to reach the end of the next chapter doesn't get a gold medal. Read *s l o w l y* and stop whenever a word, verse, or story "punches" you.
18. If you won't pick up and read your Bible because it's not your style, then go get a different one. Get a comic book Bible if you have to. Get a story/novel Bible if you have to. The most important thing is that you have a Bible that actually read.
19. Time Travel: When reading stories in the Bible put yourself in the scene and imagine all the details that you see, hear, smell, feel, and taste. Walk around and talk to other characters. Explore the area. Listen carefully. Etc.
20. Constantly stop and ask God, "What do you want me to learn from this?"
21. Keep your eyes peeled for:
 - a. Old Testament prophecies/predictions about Jesus (Examples: Isaiah 53, Micah 5:2, Zechariah 9:9, etc.)
 - b. Old Testament Types of Jesus (Examples: Moses, Joseph, David, etc.) and other examples of typology (Old to New Testament connections)
 - c. Numerology (Different numbers symbolize different things in the Bible)
22. If reading the Bible doesn't make you a more loving, kind, and gentle person, then you are doing something wrong. Reading the Bible should not make you into a know-it-all arrogant person. It should make you more like Jesus.
23. Read the Bible metaphorically when you should and literally when you should.
24. When God "punches" you don't ignore it!