

PRACTICE: READING

FORMATION IN THE WAY OF JESUS



DISCOVERY
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Psalm 119:105 *Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.*

We read to be Formed not Informed!

- **Get a Bible!**

- A question that is often asked is: what is the best Bible translation? What kind of Bible should I get? A simple answer is: whatever translation helps you want to read it!
- A more complex answer is that some translations try hard to stay "literal" (although there is no such thing as a literal translation). These can be more awkward to read. Other translations aim for readability (which usually means more culturally appropriate translations...although the challenge here is that culture and language are always changing). The NASB is very literal, The NLT is very readable. **We use, primarily, the NIV as it is a good balance of readability and translation.**
- One final thought here: behind every Bible translation is a team of people who do the translation work, and the publisher that makes and sells the Bible. There are all sorts of behind the scenes things that go into a Bible translation. Certain translations have certain agendas. One newer translation that is "self-published" and includes a diverse team of translators (ethnic-cultural and gender) is the **Common English Bible**. Check it out!

- **Get a Plan!**

- There are a lot of great Bible reading plans you can utilize. We offer a 6 month "Overview of the Story" reading plan on the Discovery Christian Church App. That is a great place to start.
- We also recommend the Chronological Bible Reading Plan as it helps us see the larger flow of the Story.
- Go to Bible Gateway (www.biblegateway.com) and click on "Read the Bible" and then on "Reading Plans". BG offers plans like:
 - Daily Old and New Testament readings
 - Historical, Liner, and Chronological Plans
 - Gospels in 40 Days
 - The Book of Common Prayer and other Lectionary Plans

- **Read in Community**

- Join a Mid-Sized Community
- Explore the Contemplative Practice of *Lectio Divina* with our Short-Term Group led by Grace Cooper
- Create Informal Opportunities
 - Invite some friends to do your plan together
 - Start a monthly coffee meet up to talk about Scripture
 - Get together after a Gathering to process the sermon
 - Be creative, but read with people!

Additional Resources:

Bible Study Tools

- InterVarsity Press has a series of **Bible Dictionaries** that are awesome and helpful. Bible dictionaries provide summaries of scholarship around different topics, words, and themes in Scripture <https://www.ivpress.com/the-ivp-bible-dictionary-series>
- **Commentaries**
 - The Story of God Bible Commentaries Series
 - NT Wright's "Bible for Everyone" Series
 - Anchor Bible Commentary Series
- **Survey's**
 - Old Testament Survey by LaSor, Hubbard, and Bush
 - Introduction to the New Testament by Carson, Moo, and Morris
- **Scholarship**
 - Old Testament: Read everything by John Walton and Walter Brueggemann.
 - New Testament: Read everything by NT Wright and Scot McKnight
- **The Bible Project:** the Bible Project is a truly great resource. They have awesome stuff on books of the Bible, the larger story of Scripture, word studies, themes, etc. (Google "Bible Project" or follow them on social media).

Books on The Bible

Reading the Bible for the Love of God by Alan Reynolds

How We Read the Bible by Matt Laidlaw

The Badly Behaved Bible by Nick Page

Inspired by Rachel Held Evans

Reading While Black by Esau McCaulley

The Blue Parakeet by Scot McKnight

How [Not] To Read the Bible by Dan Kimball

The Drama of Scripture by Batholomew and Goheen

Scripture and the Authority of God by NT Wright

How the Bible Actually Works by Pete Enns

Eat This Book by Eugene Peterson

Happy Reading!