

Reading the Bible

Part 1

Video Link For This Lesson: <http://youtu.be/SzvS4f1thXU>

Covered in this Lesson

- Picking a Translation of the Bible
- What's In Your Bible
- Where to Start Your Reading

Picking A Translation Of The Bible

The Bible was originally written in Ancient Hebrew and Ancient Greek. Today, we read English Translations of these Scriptures. There are a lot of good translations available today, and here are several to check out for yourself.

Three Very Good Translations to Consider

- NIV - New International Version 1984
- NLT - New Living Translation
- NKJV - New King James Version
- NASB - New American Standard Bible

Project: How to pick the right version for you.

Here's a simple way to pick the right version. Go to a place where you can look at all the versions that you are considering at one time. You could go to a Christian Bookstore, or go on-line to www.biblestudytools.com. Then read the the same Old Testament Scripture (Proverbs 11) and New Testament Scripture (Mark 1) in each of the versions that you are considering. **The Bible that you understand the most is the Bible you should pick.**

What's In Your Bible

66 Books In Total from Genesis to Revelation

39 Old Testament - Written before Jesus Christ came.

27 New Testament - Written after Jesus Christ came.

Table of Contents - In the beginning as you would expect. This will share the starting page for each of the books in your Bible.

Concordance - It's simply an index of key words at the end of of your Bible. You can look up a topic that you would like to read about: love, joy, cross, Moses, Joshua, and Paul.

Book by Book Introductions - Most Bibles have introductions at the beginning of each of the Books in the Bible. These introductions are very helpful because they give you a great head start before you read the book itself. It will describe what type of book it is: such as a book of prophecy, a book of songs, or a historical account. It will also tell you who authored of that particular book and a little about that author. Most (but not all) Bibles have these introductions before each book.

Where to Start Reading Your Bible

With most books you start at the beginning and read until you finish. That strategy does not work as well with the Bible since there are 66 books. You would have to read 39 books (Genesis through Malachi) before you would have the opportunity to read about the birth of Jesus in the New Testament!

A good strategy is to switch back and forth by reading a New Testament (NT) book and then read an Old Testament (OT) book. Meanwhile, you can also read a

chapter from Psalms or Proverbs each day. Here's a suggest order to get you started.

- Mark (NT)
- Genesis (OT)
- Luke (NT)
- Exodus (OT)
- Philippines & Ephesians (NT)
- Joshua (OT)

Pray before you read Bible and after you read as well. The Holy Spirit is the one who originally inspired the authors to write as they did. The Holy Spirit can inspire you and give you understanding as you read the Bible.

Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think it is a good idea to read both Old and New Testament books?
- What topic would you like to learn about in your Bible? To find scriptures on that topic, can you think of a particular word that you can look up in your concordance (index)?

Additional Resources:

Victory's Website: www.vcfgoochland.org/discipleship

Victory's Podcast: <http://goo.gl/XVZVNY>

Contact Us @ friends@vcfgoochland.org or Call Us: 804-556-5700

Recommended Books:

[*How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth* by Gordon D Fee](#)

[*How to Read the Bible Book by Book* by Gordon D Fee](#)