



HOW TO START A BIBLE STUDY

If you've never studied the Bible, or if it's been a long time since you have, the thought of starting a Bible study can be daunting. Where do you start? Old Testament? New Testament? What if you don't understand something? What if you don't agree with something? What if you get bored?

There are a lot of unknowns when it comes to approaching a text that was written over 2,000 years ago and is over 2,000 pages long, but we believe anyone can study the Bible at any time. If you're reading this right now, you probably have the first thing that's required to start a Bible study: desire.

Wanting to learn more about this book is the first step to starting a Bible study. That desire will take you far. In fact, we believe that desire is God-given, and if God wants you to get to know His Word, you will get to know His Word.

Aside from simply desiring to study the Bible, here are a few more tips to get you started on your Bible study journey.

Start with what interests you.

What are you most curious about in the Bible? The person of Jesus Christ? The creation story? The apostle Paul and his letters?

Whatever it is, start there. For example, if you want to learn more about the person of Jesus, the Book of John is a great place to start. It's a very readable book that tells the story of Jesus' ministry while on earth, and the story of his death and resurrection. You can simply start reading the book, or you can find a study on the Book of John to help. We have one called *The Gospel of John*. If you're new to Christianity, consider downloading Greater Than Gold's free study, *Introduction To The Christian Life* from our website, www.greaterthangold.com. It will provide a basic starting point and answer several questions you might have about your new faith.

Don't read too much at one time.

You don't have to read an entire book of the Bible in one sitting. In fact, we wouldn't recommend trying that. Scripture is a bit like poetry. It's best read slowly, a little at a time. A guided study will tell you how much to read each day, or a good rule of thumb is one chapter at a time. One chapter in John only takes about five minutes to read.

Decide when and where you will study.

Having a designated time and place to study the Bible will help you be consistent. If you're a morning person, try studying over your first cup of coffee. If you're a night owl, consider reading for 30 minutes before going to bed. There are no rules for where and when. You can study the word anywhere, at any time. Just pick something that works for you, and that you know you can reasonably stick with.



Invite a friend, or two.

Studying the Bible with a friend, or in a group, can be beneficial for many reasons. Together, you can help each other understand passages that are confusing at first. You can provide accountability for each other, so you're more motivated to read regularly. You can experience what the Bible talks so much about: community. God created the church to be a group of people, not individuals, so studying the Bible in a group is one way to reflect God's plan for His people.

Greater than Gold offers easy-to-use Bible studies on various topics and books of the Bible. See which one would be a fit for you, or for your Bible study group, <http://greaterthangold.com/index.php/store>.