

# HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

The Bible is a book unlike any other. It describes itself this way: “Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another — showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God’s way. (2 Timothy 3, *The Message*)

In other words, ***the Bible is a book that changes us.***

The Bible is also a book that can be intimidating to read! It’s long and includes a lot of things that are strange to modern readers: things like genealogies and detailed descriptions of buildings and unusual dream-like visions. Here are some ideas to help you read the Bible:

## 1. Get a Bible

There are different translations of the Bible, each with unique strengths. For regular reading, choose a translation that is readable for you.

### Some Translations of the Bible

Familiar: NIV

Fresh: The Message

Academic: ESV, NRSV

## 2. Read with others

Find a friend or group of people who are reading through the Bible or the same parts of the Bible as you. At St. Paul’s Leaskdale, you can sign up for a shared read-through-the-Bible plan and join a community of people who are reading through the Bible in this season.

## 3. Read the Bible on its own terms

The Bible is a collection of ancient books written by many authors using a variety of genres. It explodes all of our familiar expectations of what a book should be. As you read the Bible, it can be helpful to learn about how each book was written, and how each part connects to the larger whole. To help with this, we will provide an overview of each book to introduce it and show where it fits within the Bible’s great story.

### Learning about the Bible

*How to Read the Bible* (Bible Project video series)

*Eat this Book* (Peterson)

*Read the Bible for a Change* (Lubeck)

*How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* (Fee & Stuart)

## 4. Read the Bible to meet God

When you start to read a passage, pray that God will speak to you and try to incorporate what you read into your prayers. Take small parts of what you’ve read and reflect on them repeatedly throughout the day. Expect God to communicate through what you’ve read.

## 5. Read the Bible for life

Reading the Bible takes a lifetime. As we read and re-read it, God uses it to change us.