

Reading Scripture

The Scriptures were designed to be read for formation, to find life and shape us into the image of Jesus. Understand more why the practice of reading Scripture is important, how to do it and discover what it can do in your life.

1. TEACHING – READING SCRIPTURE – *Being renewed:*

THE IMPORTANCE OF SCRIPTURE:

2 Tim 3:16-17

2 Peter 1:21

Psalm 119:89

Genesis 3:1-4 & Matt 4:1-11

Matt 7:26-29

Visit <https://practictheway.org/practices/scripture> to listen to these talks to help you understand why reading scripture is important and discover what it can do in your life.



1

Can We Trust the Bible?

Approach the Bible not as critics and defenders, but as apprentices of Jesus. Posture is more important than technique.

2

The Bible as an Alternative Story

All humans beings live by a story, a narrative by which we make sense of the big questions of life.

3

The Bible as Meditation Literature

The Bible describes itself as a library designed for a lifetime of ongoing meditation.

4

The Bible as Spiritual Authority

What does it mean to say the Bible is authoritative when most of it is a story?

5

The Bible Put to Memory

If we want to live into the fullness of the Kingdom we must be people who know and have the scriptures in us.

2. PRACTICE READING SCRIPTURE – *Being intentional:*

DIGGING DEEPER INTO THE BIBLE... COMA (Context-Observation-Meaning-Application)

1. CONTEXT -

Questions to ask ...

- *What sort of writing is this?*
- *Where does this passage fit in the big story of the Bible?*
- *What has happened so far?*

2. OBSERVATION - What does the passage actually say?

Questions to ask ...

- *Who, where, when?*
- *What is happening or being said?*
- *Why is this happening or being said?*
- *What is the main point or points?*
- *What are the key words? What words or ideas are repeated?*

Things to consider...

- *What surprised me?*
- *What stood out to me?*
- *What don't I understand?*
- *How does this connect with ...? Or How can this be true when ...?*

3. MEANING - What does the passage mean?

Questions to ask ...

- *How does this passage relate to other parts of the book?*
- *How does the passage connect to Jesus?*
- *What does this teach me about God?*
- *How would I sum up this passage in my own words?*

4. APPLICATION - How do I respond?

Questions to ask...

- *Is there a reason here for thanksgiving, worship or praise?*
- *Is there a promise to claim?*
- *Is there an example to follow?*
- *Is there a sin to avoid or confess?*
- *Is there a command for me to obey.*

Look up... how does this deepen my love and trust in God?

Look in ... what do I learn about myself and how God wants to transform me?

Look out ... how will this change the way I relate to others and live in God's world?

5. A Final P.S (PRAYER & SHARE)

- **PRAYER...** *spiritual formation happens through the power of the Holy Spirit so immerse your bible reading in prayer.*
- **SHARE ...** *don't keep what God is teaching you to yourself. Make a practise of sharing it with others*

Visit <https://practicingtheway.org/practices/scripture> and click on each of these circles for more ideas and resources how to practice reading scripture.



1

Our Relationship to the Bible

How do we reconcile any baggage we may have with the Bible with our desire to apprentice under Jesus of Nazareth?

2

Large Portions Aloud

Fundamental to followers of Jesus for centuries, was reading large portions of the Bible out loud in one sitting.

3

Lectio Divina

The Bible describes itself as a library designed for a lifetime of ongoing meditation.

4

Study

There are a number of approaches to studying and peeling back the multi-layered meanings of the Bible.

5

Memorization

As disciples of Jesus, some of the greatest transformation takes place amongst the thoughts in our minds.

3. TAKE STEPS TO GROW IN COMMUNITY:

- A. To grow in this practice, what is **one idea you want to experiment with this coming week?** How will you do that?
- B. **Is there someone that you could connect with for mutual encouragement, learning and accountability to deepen in this practice?**¹ It might be your spouse, sibling, close friend, someone in your life group or someone else at this workshop.

¹ This is a practical way we can fulfill our vision together at TCBC *“Transforming lives through Christ-centred community”*

“Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (Hebrews 10:24-25).