



Tools to make Bible study more fun and more fruitful / Church of the Open Bible

If you want to hear more good teaching...

- † WJTL has short teachings by Joni Ericson Tada, Tony Dungy, Luis Palau, and Max Lucado.
- † WDAC has longer teachings by David Jeremiah, Chuck Swindoll, Focus on the Family, James Dobson, Tony Evans, Ravi Zacharias, Steve Brown, Dennis Rainey, and Franklin Graham.
- † Listen to previous sermons on our website or go to the website of speakers you respect to listen to their teachings.
- † At thebiblicalstory.org you will get a series of teachings about how the whole Bible fits together as one integrated book, taught by Dallas Theological Seminary professor Charles Baylis.
- † Sometimes iTunesU offers parts of DTS classes for free, like Svigel's on eschatology.

If you want to memorize scripture...

- † Create memory verse cards, using index cards or a template and paper precut into ten business cards per sheet.
- † Get a program for your computer or an app for your tablet or phone to provide you with electronic flash cards.
- † What you want is to have some of these cards or the app with you, so you can practice any time you have a minute. If you practice a few times a day until you have it, you will only need to practice it weekly after that to keep it.

If you want to spend more time reading the Bible...

Electronic Resources

- † olivetree.com has NET, ESV, HCSB free for phone or tablet, plus elements you can add to help you read or study.
- † globible.com has NIV, ESV, KJV, Message for free, plus upgrades for timelines, atlas, pictures, and more.
- † youversion.com gives free bible text and audio, reading plans, and more.
- † biblegateway.com has NASB, NET, NIV, HCSB, NLT and many others.
- † bible.org has NASB, NET, ESV, HCSB.
- † Just for fun, you might go to aol.org to hear Hebrew or Greek passages read to you as you study them in English!

Print Resources

- † Try changing your translation: NET, NIV, ESV, NASB, HCSB, NLT are all good for reading.
- † Try a parallel Bible, one that shows two or more translations at the same time.
- † Try a Bible with study notes. *Life Application Study Bible* [available in six translations], *Zondervan's Study Bible* [three]; for notes on dispensationalism, *Ryrie's* [three], *Schofield's* [three] or *MacArthur's* [four; usually dispensational].
- † Try the *Archaeological Study Bible* or Holman's new *Apologetics Study Bible*.
- † Chronological Bibles weave the law, prophets, and history together and harmonize the gospels: *The Daily Bible* by Harvest House; Tyndale's *One Year Chronological Bible*; the new *Chronological Life Application study Bible*.
- † If you want a harmony of the gospels, which puts the recorded life of Jesus into chronological order, try Pentecost's *A Harmony of the Words and Works of Jesus Christ*. There is a good commentary that goes with it just called *The Words and Works of Jesus Christ*.

If you want to go deeper in study and reflection on scripture...

- † Whatever you do for your study and reflection, include time to prayerfully consider what the passage means for you, regarding what you believe and how you live. Take time to listen for guidance from God. You should spend as much time reflecting on scripture as you do in studying or reading!

For beginners

- † Anders' *30 Days to Understanding the Bible*: easy and fun learning exercises, to help understand how the whole Bible fits together.
- † Someone in this church recommended *The Bible for Blockheads*, which is similar.
- † Hendricks' *Living by the Book* has dozens of short learning exercises to help understand and correctly interpret.
- † Ryken's *How to Read the Bible as Literature* talks about how to understand the poetry, historical narration, etc.

Apps and websites

- † chronolifeapp.com gives two years of devotions progressing chronologically through the Bible.
- † spendayearwithjesus.com sends three texts per day about what was happening in Jesus' life on that day during his last year, with key verses to look up.
- † gotandem.com gives daily devotions, which you can customize.
- † "Our Daily Bread" [odb.org] now provides daily devotions by app, email, or mail.
- † If you go to bible.org and click on "bible study," you can view several translations, even in parallel, you can see how each English word comes from various Greek or Hebrew words, with brief definitions of those words, and see articles posted by pastors and scholars about those verses.
- † biblegateway.com allows key word search and has articles on topics.
- † biblehub.com has topical search, Greek and Hebrew tools, verse look up, dictionaries, concordances, commentaries.
- † christiananswers.net has dictionaries and bible encyclopedias.

Computer Software

- † biblesoft.com has a computer program which costs \$30-75 to start as a good basic tool.
- † e-sword.net has one that is free.
- † Bibleworks is great if you want to study the Greek and Hebrew at a more advanced level. But you don't need this if you are just working in English. When studying a passage, it can automatically alert you to key information in grammars, lexicon/dictionaries, and so on. Available for Windows and Mac at about \$360 to start.
- † Logos also has great Greek and Hebrew tools and you can add thousands of electronic books that integrate with the Bible program. Available for Windows and Mac, starting at \$295, but jumping to quickly to \$600 or even more if you want tools in Greek and Hebrew.
- † Accordance might be the best of them all, but available only on Mac. The starter kit is \$60, but you definitely will upgrade for \$200 and spend at least \$600 to do anything in Greek or Hebrew.

Print Resources

- † Try using a good study guide, like the *Life Change Series* by NavPress [Navigators].
- † *Bible Study Magazine* gives tips on Bible study as well as devotions and inspiring articles.
- † Buy a bible atlas, like the *Satellite Bible Atlas* [at bibleplaces.com]; or those by Moody, Carta, and Zondervan.
- † Use a Bible Dictionary [encyclopedia]: *New Bible Dictionary* or *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Dictionary*; or specialized ones like the *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*, which explains the metaphors and other imagery used in the Bible.
- † Try using commentaries for whatever book you are studying; ask the pastor for recommendations.
- † There are specialized commentaries like Beale and Carson's *Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament* or Snodgrass' *Stories of Intent* which explains the parables of Jesus.
- † There are general commentaries on the whole Bible, like Wilkinson's *Talk Thru the Bible* or Hanna's *From Moses to Malachi* and *From Gospels to Glory*.
- † A New Testament or Old Testament Introduction will explain background, like date, author, place, historical situation, and a summary of the book. Archer for OT and Guthrie for NT are very evangelical; Zondervan's new ones include more liberal-critical ideas.
- † Lexicons are dictionaries, helping understand key words. Mounce has the *Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words*, which allows you to look up an English word and see the Greek and Hebrew words used for it. *Vine's Expository Dictionary* does the same.
- † A concordance allows you to look up an English word and see all the verses using it. Be sure to get one for the specific translation you use!
- † Chain reference Bibles give you links to passages discussing the same topic.
- † Backgrounds books, like the IVP Bible Background Commentary, explain the cultural and historical issues in specific verses; or you can get some that have chapters on specific topics.
- † If you are interested in a specific theological topic, you might try reading a theology book: Ryrie's *A Survey of Bible Doctrine* [180 pages] or *Basic Theology* [650] or Grudem's *Systematic Theology* [1200]. If you want a book on a specific theological topic, ask the pastor for recommendations.

Consultation

- † Join a small group and discuss the Bible together!
- † Consult with a pastor, lay elder, or other spiritual leader about your questions!
- † Ask for mentoring!