

Connecting With God Through His Word

Antioch Bible Reading Resources

What the Bible is, and is not:

- Many people look to the Bible demanding it answer every question they have about life. While it does help us make sense of our own existence, the Bible is not a textbook. Instead, the Bible reads more like a story, and its primary purpose is to tell us about history's most prominent protagonist. The Bible tells us about God - what He is like, what He has done, and what He plans to do. The Bible is not a subject to be mastered. Instead, the Bible leads us to the Person we were made to know.

How to read the Bible:

- Passive reading doesn't work in school, and it doesn't work with the Bible. We get the most out of the Bible when we read it actively. Active reading involves asking questions, thinking deeply, and connecting the dots. Questions are keys that open doors to deep truths that help us know and love God more. The following questions are meant to help lead you into a deeper knowledge of God.

- An important part of understanding Scripture is understanding the context in which it was written.

Questions to consider:

- *Who is the author of this book of the Bible?*
- *Who was his audience?*
- *Why was he writing?*
- *When in history was it written?*
- *What genre of literature is it?*
- Many of these questions are difficult to answer on our own. 'Study Bibles,' as well as the 'Fee and Stuart' books listed below are tremendous resources.
- Once we have contextualized a passage, we can then make our way towards interpreting it.
 - *What does this passage say about who God is?*
 - *What does this passage say about what God does?*
 - *What does this passage say about who man is?*
 - *What does this passage say about what man does?*
 - *What is God speaking to me through this passage?*
 - *How can I obey this passage?*

Helpful Resources:

- Does reading the Bible seem overwhelming to you? Try following a Bible reading plan.
 - www.youversion.com. One of the best Bible reading resource on the web.
 - www.biblegateway.com. A great reference tool for finding passages.
- Does the Bible seem confusing to you? Check out these great reference books.

- *How to Read the Bible For All Its Worth* by, Fee and Stuart (heavyweight). A great book for understanding broader Biblical themes and concepts.
- *How to Read the Bible Book by Book* by, Fee and Stuart (heavyweight). A great book for understanding historical and cultural contexts of individual books.
- *Understanding the Bible in 30 Days* by, Max Anders (lightweight). A great book for beginner Bible readers.
- Want to go deeper in your understanding of Biblical words and meanings? Try the Blue Letter Bible.
- www.<http://www.blueletterbible.org>. The best Bible Concordance and Hebrew/Greek Lexicon resource on the web.