

KNOWLEDGE – PERSONAL STUDY CHALLENGE

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

You must crave pure spiritual milk so that you can grow into the fullness of your salvation. Cry out for this nourishment as a baby cries for milk, now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness. 1 Peter 2:2-3

GET A GOOD STUDY BIBLE

A good study Bible can serve as an invaluable tool to help you avoid misunderstandings and to understand the relevance of these ancient words to your life and relationships. A good study Bible includes a readable translation, an introduction to each book, study notes explaining cultural and language backgrounds, an index of names, places, and definitions, and a focus on how to apply the Bible's teaching to your personal life.

STUDY BIBLES

Life Application Study Bible (Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House)

New Believer's Bible (Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House)

The One Year Bible (Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House)

TouchPoint Bible (Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House)

NIV Study Bible – Zondervan

START WITH JESUS

While it is certainly possible to begin reading the Bible as you would any other book – from the beginning – I think it is much more helpful for a first-time reader to begin with what the Bible has to say about Jesus. While the book of Genesis (the first book of the Bible) is enormously important and deserves careful and thoughtful study, the New Testament stories of Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection, along with the record of his teaching, are immediately captivating to most readers.

Furthermore, Jesus is the focal point of the whole Bible. Throughout the Old Testament we can understand the writing as the preparation for Christ; the prophets looked ahead to the future coming of Christ. The Gospels tell the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection; the book of Acts gives us the account of the explosive growth of early Christianity after Christ rose, went back to heaven, and sent his Spirit; Paul's New Testament letters explain Christ's significance and how to know him today; and Revelation speaks of the final triumph of Christ over the powers of sin and death. So, instead of beginning at the beginning, begin at the center – and the center of the Bible is Jesus.

We have included a 30 Days With Jesus Challenge. This is a 30 day reading plan that will take you through selections from the Gospels designed to give you a better grasp of the life and work of Jesus Christ.

Further Reading & Study:

Philippians 1:9-10, Colossians 1:9, 2:2-3, Proverbs 1:1-7, Romans 11:33-36, 2
Corinthians 4:3-6, 2 Peter 3:17-18