

How to Read the Bible Right

Week of January 11, 2026

READ:

³¹ "If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true. ³² There is another who testifies in my favor, and I know that his testimony about me is true.

³³ "You have sent to John and he has testified to the truth. ³⁴ Not that I accept human testimony; but I mention it that you may be saved. ³⁵ John was a lamp that burned and gave light, and you chose for a time to enjoy his light.

³⁶ "I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to finish—the very works that I am doing—testify that the Father has sent me. ³⁷ And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form, ³⁸ nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent. ³⁹ You study^{at} the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, ⁴⁰ yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

- John 5:31–40

KEY POINTS:

- The way you read the Bible depends on what you think the Bible is. Reading the Bible is not enough. How we read it matters.
- The Bible is not about you—it testifies about Jesus. If you look for yourself first, you may miss the Savior.
- You can study Scripture deeply and still miss the life it offers. Eternal life is not found in information, but in a personal relationship with Jesus.
- We read the Bible rightly when every passage leads us to Jesus Christ. The Bible introduces you to a Savior, and the Savior changes you....the One who satisfies you.

QUESTIONS:

- When you think about how you usually read the Bible, which approach do you most naturally drift toward (self-help, instruction manual, inspiration, information)? Why?
- Why do you think it's so easy—even for religious people—to read the Bible regularly and still miss Jesus?
- Have you ever felt pressure, guilt, or frustration connected to reading the Bible? How might that connect to trying to earn something from God rather than receive something from Him?
- What would change in your Bible reading if your primary question became: **“How does this passage lead me to Christ?”**
- As you think about your current season, what is one area where you need to stop trying to be the hero and instead trust Jesus as your Savior?

PRAYER:

Dear Lord,

We come to You grateful for Your Word. Thank You that the Bible is not just information to be learned, but a story that leads us to Jesus. Forgive us for the times we've read Scripture looking for ourselves instead of looking to Him.

Lord, we confess that we often try to be the hero of our own story. We try harder, do more, and carry weight we were never meant to carry. Today, we release that burden. We admit that we are not enough for ourselves—but Jesus, You are enough for us, and You satisfy us.

Open our eyes as we read Your Word. Help us see Christ on every page—His love, His sacrifice, His power, and His grace. Let Scripture move from our minds into our hearts.

For those of us who feel tired, frustrated, or stuck, remind us that life is not found in striving, but in coming to You. Teach us to read, listen, and respond, knowing that You are pointing us to Jesus.

We trust You. We need You. And we thank You for meeting us here.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.