



Confidence in God's Word

Do you have confidence that God wants to speak to you every day of your life? We have a God who is a Father to us and as in any relationship, communication is vital.

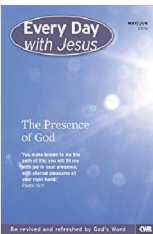
God speaks to us in many ways

1. through creation (Rom 1v20, Psalm 19v1-4),
2. through the Bible (2 Tim 3v14-17),
3. through Jesus - the word made flesh (John 1v1- 2, v14, Hebrews 1v1-3),
4. through other Christians (prophecy)

Regular Bible Reading

Find a way of reading the Bible regularly by yourself and with others, so that God can speak to you.

For personal Bible reading you might like to try one of

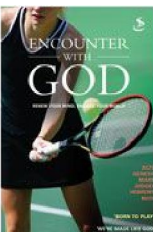


these Bible Reading Notes. They come out every 2 or 3 months, buy from here www.scriptureunion.org.uk/shop

If you find reading difficult you can download the Bible to listen to on your MP3 player or phone. The HTB Bible in One year plan is also excellent if you have never done it. Download the app at this website www.bibleinoneyear.org.



There is a Bible reading for the day plus a few great comments to help you understand what has been written.



Bible memorisation

There is something so beneficial about committing verses from the Bible to memory. At times of need or pressure having God's word at your fingertips is a real strength, keeps you on track and challenges you when tempted to wander from God. In the OT people were told to teach their children God's laws. This would have meant committing it to memory. Jesus in the wilderness (Luke 4) seemed to have memorised parts of Deuteronomy which came in very handy!

What does God's Word do for us?

Psalms 19:7 - 11

The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul.

The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.

The precepts of the LORD are right,
giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the LORD are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.

The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring for ever.

The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous.

They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. By them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

Getting to grips with the Bible

For those who don't know where to start reading the Bible for themselves, can I recommend one of the gospels?

Reading about Jesus and what he did and said always inspires me.

At some point you may want to move on to reading other parts of the Bible because

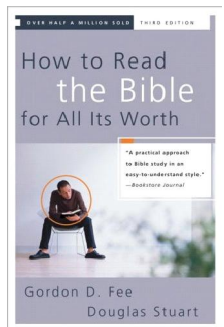
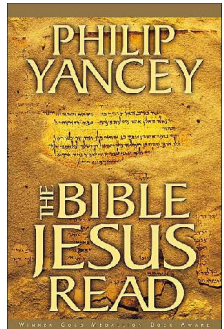
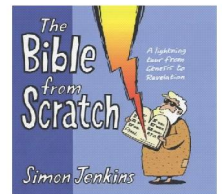
"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness," 2 Tim 3:16.

If you need some help understanding the Bible (particularly the Old Testament) can I recommend some books I have found useful?

The Bible from Scratch by Simon Jenkins is a lightning tour from Genesis to Revelation containing cartoons, charts, maps and an introduction to each book of the Bible. Great fun!

The Bible Jesus Read by Philip Yancey gives some very helpful hints on interpreting Old Testament books.

How to read the Bible for all its worth by Fee and Stuart is a bit more of a challenging book but great for those who want to go a bit deeper with their Bible reading.



Bible meditation

To get the most out of the Bible at times you need to spend time reflecting on it rather than speed reading. This can be done by taking a verse, reading it slowly a number of times and meditating on it. The Psalmist found Bible meditation invaluable
Psalms 119:97 - 99 Oh, how I love your law! (the first part of the Bible) I meditate on it all day long. Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me. I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes.