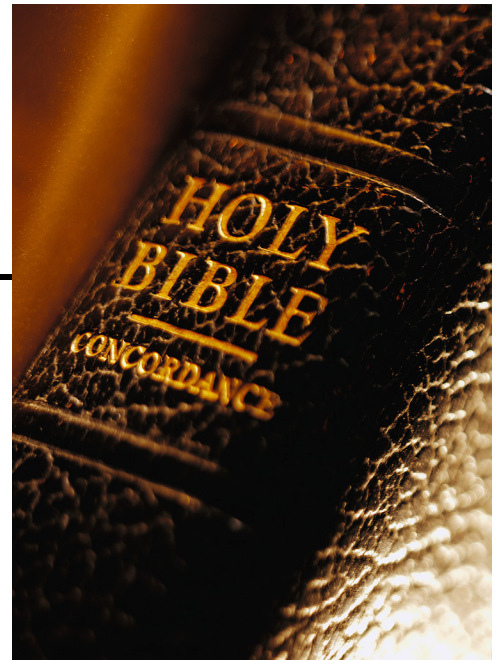


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Learning to Use Your Bible!



It is said that, at the start of every training camp, Coach Vince Lombardi held up a football, and said, “*Gentlemen, this is a football.*” An obvious observation if ever there was one. Why did Lombardi do it? He didn’t want his players to forget the importance of the basics.

Today, I hold before you a very special book, and I say, “*Brothers and sisters in Christ, this is a Bible.*” Do you know that? Of course. Do you know it’s important to study it? Obviously. Yet, perhaps we forget sometimes how vital it is to keep the Bible at the center of our every-day lives. If so, perhaps this little Bible study will be of some help!

1. I read my Bible:

- A. ___ once a day
- B. ___ once a week
- C. ___ once a month
- D. ___ once a year
- E. ___ sporadically
- F. ___ never

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2. My greatest obstacles to consistent personal Bible study are. . .

- A. ___ I don’t have time in my schedule.
- B. ___ I have tried and failed. (I never get beyond Numbers.)
- C. ___ I feel no need to spend time personally reading the Bible.
- D. ___ I’ve never developed the habit.
- E. ___ I find that the Bible is difficult to understand.
- F. ___ I don’t know where to begin.

3. Make a list of what you consider to be the most important benefits you could get out of personal Bible study.

4. By way of contrast, what benefits do you see in a joint Bible Class like this one?

Vocabulary

Bible— from “biblos,” the Greek word for “book.”

Holy Scriptures—another name for the Bible, one that emphasizes it is inspired by God.



Let's get into the Scriptures.

What do the following Bible verses teach us about the purposes and blessings of Bible study?

John 20:31

2 Timothy 3:15-17

Psalm 119:105

Hebrews 4:12

Romans 7:7

Psalm 119:114,116

Romans 15:4

John 17:17

Acts 17:11

In addition to the personal blessings God offers through regular Bible study, what further reason does the Child of God have to read the Bible?

John 8:47

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Colossians 3:16

1 Peter 3:15

Overcoming the Obstacles

Some Christians will argue, "*I go to church and listen to sermons, so I don't need to read my Bible.*" How would you respond?

Some Lutherans say (either by word or example), "*I was confirmed. I don't need to read my Bible.*" How would you respond?

Thoughts to Ponder

Read Luke 10:38-42

What does this Bible story teach us about priorities? And how does this apply to Bible reading?