

# Church of God Sunday School

## THE CHRISTIAN'S TOOLBOX — BIBLE READING



### DAILY READINGS:

- ❑ **Monday:** You should read the Bible for guidance (Psalm 119:104-105; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- ❑ **Tuesday:** Reading the Bible helps you to avoid sin (Psalm 119:10-11; Matthew 4:1-10).
- ❑ **Wednesday:** Bible reading is as important as your daily food (Luke 4:3-4; 1 Peter 2:2).
- ❑ **Thursday:** God will help you to understand your Bible reading (Acts 8:26-35).
- ❑ **Friday:** It is important that you seek God early (Psalm 63:1; Ecclesiastes 12:1).
- ❑ **Saturday:** It is important to obey what you read in the Bible (Psalm 119:9; Luke 11:28; Matthew 7:24).

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."* —Psalm 119:11

### Why Should I Read the Bible?

When you acknowledge, believe, confess, and forsake your sins, God forgives you, and you become a Christian. You start a new spiritual journey, but that is just the beginning! To continue your walk with Christ, there are some basics you must include in your daily life. Just as food, water, and air are necessary for our physical bodies to live, so there are requirements that must be met for spiritual life. One of these is Bible reading. Why is this so vital to the Christian? Bible reading will give you the instructions for how to live your Christian life. Have you ever tried to put something together without reading the directions? Perhaps you mostly figured it out, but more often than not, the instructions were vital. How much more important that you understand God's instructions for your life! However, if you never read those instructions, you are sure to make a mess of your life.

In the Old Testament, King Solomon realized his great need of guidance from God. He told God, "I know not how to go out or come in" (1 Kings 3:7). God promised to give Solomon wisdom and understanding, and He instructed Solomon to "walk in my ways" and "to keep my statutes and my commandments" (1 Kings 3:14). How could Solomon keep God's commandments? First, he had to read them! God's commandments and instructions are found in His Word (the Bible). Psalm 119:105 tells us that God's Word acts as a light and a lamp, showing us how to live.

When you read the Bible, you are storing up God's Word in your heart. Why is this important? Psalm 119:11 tells us, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." Reading and obeying God's Word will keep you from sinning. It will also teach you how to resist the temptations of the devil. As you become familiar with God's Word, you will be able to see through the lies of the devil. When Jesus was tempted by Satan, He was able to resist temptation, telling Satan, "It is written." Where was it "written"? In the Bible!

### What If I Do Not Understand the Bible?



A common complaint about reading the Bible is that it is hard to understand, and sadly, some have called it boring. A good way to think about Bible reading is to consider it as a personal letter from God to you. The God who created the universe wants to talk to you. He carefully put His plan into place so that you could have this very special Book which contains His thoughts, His will, and His plans for your life. When you begin to realize the great privilege of reading what God has to say to you, Bible reading will not be boring.

Are there Scriptures in the Bible that are hard to understand? Yes, there are. Many

verses in the Bible have been greatly misunderstood, and often religious doctrines have been formed from those misunderstandings. How can you understand what you are reading? The Ethiopian eunuch had this problem in Acts, Chapter 8. God sent Philip to give understanding to this man. Where could you find someone to give you understanding concerning a difficult Scripture reading? It is part of God's plan that you attend church services (Hebrews 10:25). In Sunday school, youth meetings, and main services, you can hear teachers and ministers explain and teach from God's Word. The best way to understand your Bible is to talk to the Author. If someone wrote you a letter or sent you a message and you did not understand what it said, what should you do? The author of that letter or message would be the best person to ask for help. So it is with the Bible. Although more than forty men wrote the sixty-six books that make up the Bible, this Book only has one Author (God).



Just as all students in school do not learn exactly alike, there are different approaches to Bible reading. If you are a *visual* learner, it might be helpful to highlight favorite passages, keep a notebook that lists the daily readings and your thoughts about those verses, follow a printed Bible reading plan, and make notes in the margin of your Bible. If your learning style is *auditory*, you might find it helpful to listen to the Bible being read aloud while you follow along in your Bible. Or you might try reading the verses out loud yourself. If you are a *hands-on* type of student, you might benefit from drawing pictures of what you have read, writing notes about your daily reading in different colors of ink, or tracing the words with your finger as you read. Understanding your learning style can be a great help when it comes to reading the Bible and retaining what you have read.

### What Should I Read?

There are several ways to approach Bible reading. Some people like to follow a daily reading plan that goes through the entire Bible in a certain amount of time. Others like to read the Bible chronologically (in the order events occurred). Yet others like to follow a topical study by choosing a topic and then reading all the Scriptures about that subject. You might try one Bible reading plan for awhile, and if that does not work, try another plan.

Find the plan that works for you, a plan that you will continue to use. If you have never read the Bible, a great place to start would be the Gospels. These four books explain the plan of salvation and the price God's Son paid for our sins. Also, it might be discouraging if you begin with more difficult books first, such as Leviticus or Numbers. Again, talk to the Author of this awesome Book before you begin to read. Only He knows exactly the Bible reading that will help you today.



### How Often and When Should I Read the Bible?

There are many people who claim to be Christians, yet they rarely read their Bibles, perhaps only when attending church services. Is that enough? Would a physical meal once or twice a week keep you from starving? How little of God's Word can you read before you begin to die spiritually? It would be better to ask yourself, how often do I need spiritual direction for my life and encouragement? The Christian needs God's help every day to live a life pleasing to God. This comes through *daily* Bible reading. When is the best time to read the Bible? David wrote in Psalm 63:1 that he sought God "early." If God's Word is providing strength, encouragement, and direction for your day, doesn't it make sense to read it "early" in your day? (It is also wise to seek God's will "early" in your life; Ecclesiastes 12:1.)

Have you considered reading your Bible more often than once per day? Try to think of other times you could read a verse or two during the day. With today's technology, access to the Bible is often quick and easy. There are many Bible apps you can download to your electronic device. Also, it might be helpful to have several Bibles stored in different places, such as your purse or your backpack or your car or your locker at school. There will be times in your life when you are waiting (waiting in a doctor's office, waiting to be picked up from school or practice, etc.). During those times, why not consider opening God's Word and reading a few verses?



1. Why is Bible reading vital for the Christian? \_\_\_\_\_

2. When God promised to give Solomon wisdom and understanding, what did He instruct Solomon to do? \_\_\_\_\_

3. To keep God's commandments, what did Solomon have to do first? \_\_\_\_\_

4. How will storing God's Word in your heart help you? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What should you do when you do not understand what you are reading in the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Who is the best Person to ask for help with understanding the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name one Bible reading plan mentioned in the lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Which books of the Bible would be a good place to start reading? \_\_\_\_\_

9. How often should you read your Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

10. When is the best time of the day to read your Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

11. How many Bibles do you own? \_\_\_\_\_ How could you add new opportunities to read the Bible throughout your day? \_\_\_\_\_

# It's From the Bible

Much of our society (laws, culture, literature) is based on the Bible.

(Draw a line from the historical speech, landmark, or figure of speech to the Scripture it came from.)

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| ★ "A house divided against itself cannot stand" ( <i>House Divided Speech</i> , Abraham Lincoln).  | ★ Isaiah 40:15    |
| ★ "We will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream" ( <i>I Have a Dream</i> , Martin Luther King). | ★ Amos 5:24       |
| ★ "Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land Unto All the Inhabitants Thereof" (Liberty Bell inscription).  | ★ Psalm 107:27    |
| ★ "What hath God wrought!" (Morse Code message sent by Samuel Morse).  | ★ Isaiah 52:8     |
| ★ "At his wits end"  | ★ Matthew 7:15    |
| ★ "A broken heart"   | ★ Numbers 23:23   |
| ★ "A drop in the bucket"   | ★ Psalm 34:18     |
| ★ "A sign of the times"  | ★ Daniel 7:9      |
| ★ "A wolf in sheep's clothing"   | ★ Leviticus 25:10 |
| ★ "As white as snow"   | ★ Matthew 16:3    |
| ★ "Eye to eye"   | ★ Matthew 12:25   |

