

Welcome to the Bible

A Simple Guide for New Readers

What Is the Bible?

The Bible is a collection of 66 books written over about 1,500 years by around 40 different people—kings, fishermen, doctors, shepherds, and more. Despite having so many authors across so many centuries, it tells one unified story:

God's love for people and His plan to bring us back to Himself.

Christians believe the Bible is not just a human book, but that God guided the writers to communicate His truth. That's why we call it "God's Word."

The Bible's Main Message

If you had to summarize the entire Bible in four points:

1	God created us to be in relationship with Him. He made us to know Him, love Him, and live in connection with Him.
2	We walked away from that relationship. Humans chose to go their own way. The Bible calls this "sin"—being disconnected from God.
3	God made a way back. God entered our world as Jesus. He lived perfectly, died for our sins, and rose again.
4	We're invited to come back. God offers forgiveness as a free gift to anyone who believes in Jesus and follows Him.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

— John 3:16

How the Bible Is Organized

Old Testament	39 Books	Written before Jesus came. Includes creation, history of Israel, and prophecies about the coming Savior.
New Testament	27 Books	Written after Jesus came. Includes the Gospels (Jesus's life), early church history, letters to believers, and Revelation.

How to Find a Verse

When someone says "John 3:16" here's what that means:

John	=	Book Name	Use the table of contents to find the page
3	=	Chapter	The big numbers in your Bible
16	=	Verse	The small numbers within each chapter

Where Should I Start Reading?

START WITH THE BOOK OF JOHN

John tells the story of Jesus's life and was written to help people believe.
Read one chapter a day — in 21 days you'll understand who Jesus is.

Don't start at page one! The Bible isn't meant to be read straight through like a novel.

Tips for Reading

- **Pray First** — Ask God to help you understand. No fancy words needed.
- **Go Slow** — Read one chapter or less. Let it sink in.
- **Ask Questions** — What does this say? What does it mean? How does it apply to me?
- **Write It Down** — Keep notes on verses that stand out to you.
- **Keep Going** — Some parts are confusing. That's okay — don't give up!

Ready to Know God?

If you want a relationship with God through Jesus, it's as simple as **ABC**:

A	ADMIT that you've lived your own way and need God.
B	BELIEVE that Jesus died for you and rose again.
C	CHOOSE to follow Him and let Him lead your life.

You can pray something like this:

"God, I know I've gone my own way and I need You. I believe Jesus died for me and rose again. I want to follow You and live the life You created me for. Thank You for loving me. Amen."

If you prayed that and meant it — **welcome to the family!** You've just begun the most important journey of your life.

Your Next Steps

Whether you just made a decision to follow Jesus or you're still exploring, here are some ways to keep growing:

KEEP READING YOUR BIBLE

Start with John, one chapter a day. After John, try reading Mark, then Romans.
Download the free **YouVersion Bible App** for reading plans designed for beginners.

FIND A LOCAL CHURCH

You weren't meant to do this alone. A good church will help you grow, answer your questions, and connect you with others on the same journey.
Visit **ChurchFinder.com** to find a Bible-believing church near you.

TALK TO GOD EVERY DAY

Prayer is simply talking to God. Thank Him, ask Him for help, tell Him what's on your mind. He's always listening.

WANT TO TALK TO SOMEONE?

If you have questions or just made a decision to follow Christ and want someone to talk to, trained counselors are available 24/7:

Call: 1-888-388-2683 (Billy Graham Evangelistic Association)
Online: PeaceWithGod.net

You're Not Alone

Reading the Bible for the first time can feel overwhelming, but remember: God is with you. He wants you to know Him, and He promises:

"Come near to God and he will come near to you."

— **James 4:8**

We're honored to put this Bible in your hands, and we're praying for you!

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bible-free.com

"Freely you have received; freely give." — Matthew 10:8