

Good and Bad Habits - Reading the Bible Sermon Outline

Why should we develop the habit of reading the Bible?

- Encouragement - Ps 119:28
- Understanding and wisdom - Ps 119:34
- Happiness - Ps 119:35
- Renewed life - Ps 119:40
- Hope - Ps 119: 43
- Freedom - Ps 119: 45
- Comfort - Ps 119:50
- Direction - Ps 119:105

God's word, the Bible, is a gift. It allows us to connect with God. It helps us to understand God's wisdom, purpose and direction for our lives.

1. Read and remember

- I wonder if you have studied for an exam, gone into the exam and realised that you have forgotten everything you read? Maybe you have a shopping list, set of instructions or recipe then forgotten it before you have put it to use.
- Even when we are in the habit of reading God's word, we must also develop a habit of remembering it (Ps 119:13-16).
- Memorising Scripture (Deut. 6:6-9).
- Remembering what the Bible says.

2. Read and reflect

- Have you ever read something in the Bible that you didn't understand? What did you do?
- When we reflect on, or study Scripture, it can help us to gain understanding. (Ps 119:15, 18, 27, 97, 130)
- Read God's Word prayerfully, asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit (Jn 14:26; Jn 16:13).
- Take practical steps to learn more. For example, use a commentary or Study Bible, read the verses in several different translations or discuss the verses with others.

3. Read and apply

- Have you ever been sick or injured? It's likely that you visited a doctor and asked for their help. When you received their advice, what did you do? Most of us, would put that advice into practice. We would take the medicine, or the test, or the treatment. We would discover, then put into practice, whatever will improve our health.
- James 1:22-25
- We need to develop the habit of remembering God's word, reflecting on it until we have understood it then applying it to our lives.