

DEVOTIONAL READING

If you feel like you are brand new to reading the Bible or having a devotional time of reading in your day – you are not alone! We are asked all the time, “where do I start?”

Some recommendations from us:

Stick close to the Bible. I encourage you to read more of the Bible than anything else.

Where should you begin? The gospel of John is a great place to start. There you meet Jesus.

The writing is simple and clear. From there I would move to the book of Ephesians. This epistle lays out Christianity beautifully. When you’ve tackled those – then read the whole thing! At your own pace, try to read the entire bible. As you have questions, write them down. Don’t be afraid of questioning what you read.

Write down your questions and then take them to a source that could help you: a pastor, a trusted friend who is a little farther down the road, or get a good commentary. The Psalms and Proverbs are also a great place to start.

It’s okay to get help. A great book to guide you into how to have a devotional time with the Lord is *Wired* by Louie Giglio.

I highly recommend it. He points the reader to the Psalms, which are great devotional material. Howard Hendricks has written a book called *Living by the Book* that also may be helpful to you. Though it is not a devotional book, it will teach you basic bible study skills that will help you as you read the text.

How do you do it? I am often asked what my devotional life looks like. Truthfully, it varies. I think that is good too. I do not believe we should ever bore ourselves with the Word of God. So I mix things up to keep it interesting. The things that are constant: they always involve **(1) prayer (2) reading the Bible (3) writing. These are fundamental. I also try to always have (1) a place I can focus (2) a time that I am awake (3) a plan of what I will be reading or working through.** Presently, I am physically writing out a New Testament epistle. I write slow, so I only get a few verses a day, but that’s intentional. I want to move slowly. I read carefully and then make notes all around the text in different colors. After I’ve spent time with just me and the text and prayer, then I will consult commentaries. I like to include their thoughts as well. I also take time to pray, often writing my prayers. This helps me focus. I do all of this in the mornings, usually at a coffee shop. It may look different for you, and that is okay. The goal is intimacy with God. I hope this is helpful. Blessings to you as you seek Him.