



Part 3: How To Read The Bible

Bottom Line:

Your story finds its greatest meaning in the context of God's story.

Introduction:

- This message focused on the practical question: How do we read the Bible?
 - Whether you're exploring faith or have been following Jesus for years, this message is designed to help you engage with Scripture in a way that impacts your life.
 - Chris shared that many people acknowledge they could improve when it comes to reading the Bible, and today's goal was to equip everyone with tools and practical steps for doing that.
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Two Key Areas:

1. Technique:

- The first part of the message focused on technique, explaining that reading the Bible well means understanding what you're reading and how to approach it.
- Chris compared reading the Bible to having the right tools, much like his daughter learning to feed herself—over time, we need to be able to engage Scripture without always relying on others to "feed" us.

2. Posture:

- The second part of the message focused on posture—the attitude we bring when we read the Bible.
 - It's not enough to read for information; we need to approach the Bible with the intention of applying what it says. As James 1:22-25 warns, we're fooling ourselves if we listen to the Word but don't do what it says.
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Practical Tools for Engaging the Bible:

- Start with honesty: Be realistic about your interest in reading books in general. Some people enjoy reading, while others don't. That's okay—just be honest about where you are so you can find a way to engage with the Bible that works for you.
 - Choose the right translation: Pick a Bible translation you can understand. Chris suggested using the YouVersion Bible App, where you can try different translations like the NLT, ESV, or NIV.
 - Approach Scripture in context: The number one mistake people make is taking Bible verses out of context. Always look at the surrounding chapters and the bigger story the passage is part of. Context is to the Bible what location is to real estate: it's essential.
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Where to Start in the Bible:

- Start with John or one of the Gospels. When you read, ask these three key questions:
 1. *What am I reading?*
 2. *Where in the story am I?*
 3. *What is it asking me to do or change?*
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Conclusion:

- Chris emphasized that your story finds its greatest meaning when lived in the context of God's bigger story.
- He challenged the church to start reading the Bible with a focus on understanding both the external and internal story: what the Bible says and how it applies to your life.
- This week's challenge: Pick up the Bible, start in John, and ask yourself, *What is God asking me to do or change?*