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Readings in this guide cover about one-quarter of the Bible. Each year's readings follow on from those of the previous year, so by following them for four years, you will read the whole Bible.

**BIBLE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA**  
Locked Bag 7003, MINTO NSW 2566  
Phone: (02) 9829 9090

or  
GPO Box 9874  
in your capital city  
[www.biblesociety.com.au](http://www.biblesociety.com.au)



Series 4



# Bible Reading Guide

People are like grass;  
their beauty is like a flower in the field.  
The grass withers and the flower fades.

**But the word of the Lord remains forever.**

1 Peter 1:24-25 (NLT)

## How can I make the most of my Bible reading time?

**Begin by praying.** One very simple and good prayer to use is Psalm 119:18—'Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your instructions.' (NLT).

**Take some time to be quiet,** to think about what you read yesterday, and to think again about what you learnt from that reading.

**Read the passage for the day.**

**Think what the passage tells you.**

Some questions worth asking yourself are:

1. Does this passage tell a story? Is it a prayer or a poem, or perhaps part of a letter?
2. What is it mainly about?
3. Does it tell me something about what God is like?
4. Does it teach me something about human nature?
5. Does it tell me something about how to live God's way?

**Try to summarise what you have learned from the passage.**

1. Have I learned something about how I should live?
2. Have I learned something about what God promises?
3. Have I learned something that adds to my understanding of the Bible?
4. Does the passage show me something, in myself or in my life, that I need particularly to pray about?
5. Does it show me an example I should follow, or perhaps offer a warning?
6. Is there something here that I don't understand, that I need to think about more, or talk to someone about, or perhaps, even look for more information about it?

**Take some more time to be quiet with God**—don't just ask these questions once over, but think about them for a while. Think again about yesterday's reading or other parts of the Bible—how do the things you have learned already fit with what you read today? Pray for strength and wisdom to keep following God's path. Praying about your Bible reading is really important - before, after and while you are reading it, and as you think about it during the day.

It's also important to find yourself a regular time and place to read the Bible; reading Scripture regularly and habitually will gradually deepen your relationship with God. Keeping a notebook of what you learn can be very helpful. Sometimes using a different translation can help you understand a difficult passage or even give you a new insight into a passage you already know well as you try to live your life closer and closer to God.

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