



Bible Sunday 2019



"As we read [the Bible], we enter a new world of words and find ourselves in on a conversation in which God has the first and last words... and we are included in the conversation. The Bible is not only written about us, but to us. God uses words to form and bless us, to teach and guide us, to forgive and save us."

Eugene H. Peterson,
Introduction to The Daily Message

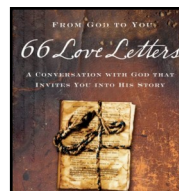
Given this introduction, who wouldn't want to make reading the Bible a (more) regular routine?! On this Bible Sunday, we asked a cross-section of people of all ages, backgrounds and faith journeys which notes they use. Any reading of the Bible is better than none, and the most disheartening thing is to start a new regime which you can't sustain. We've split the recommendations into the time you might be able to devote to it, and added some suggestions for particular life-stages.

The bigger picture

Let's start with a book to understand the context of the Bible when you do come to read it.

66 Love Letters by Larry Crabb (New Way Ministries, £9.99), which promises to help you "*discover the larger story of the Bible*". You can find a pdf of the book at

www.fellowshipofchristianfirefighters.com



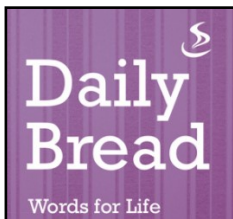
Bible translations

Our churches use the **New International Version** (NIV) but other popular versions include **New Living Translation** (NLT) and **The Message**. Did you know there is a **dyslexic friendly version** available from the Bible Society? There's also the **International Childrens Bible** (ICB) and the **Good News Bible**. You can view different translations for free on www.biblegateway.com.

15 minutes a day ...

Daily Bread from Scripture Union.

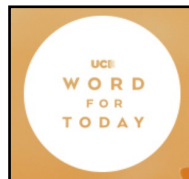
The Cornerstone Bookshop in Grove or The Fountain in Wallingford stock or can order them in if you don't want to do it yourself online at www.scriptureunion.org.uk. It is quarterly at £4.49 per issue and comes as a booklet (including large print) or an e-book, Kindle book or PDF. You can buy an annual subscription and they send them to you through the year.



Our Daily Bread from Our Daily Bread Ministries. This is a free, quarterly series. The worldwide ODBM network is funded entirely by donations, so each booklet is accompanied by an envelope in case you are able to send an offering. Enquire at europe@odb.org or ring 01539 564149 to get on the mailing list. There's also a daily Facebook devotional on the same reading, or you can get an email or text message every day. See odb.org

UCB Word for Today

is a free, hard copy resource or, if you choose to take it online/by phone, you can choose to hear or read the commentary on the set passage. The American audio delivery may not suit everyone! Have a look or sign up at www.ucb.co.uk where you can also find the Looking for God resources for those who have just become Christians.



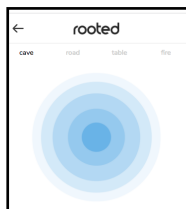
New Daylight (BRF) comes out three times a year costing £16.50 annually. You can sample all the BRF booklets (available in print, as download, email, audio and as an app) at www.biblereadingnotes.org.uk. New Daylight was the print choice of – among others – people with a bus/train journey, as the passages are set out and you don't have to carry a Bible with you as well!

A second suggestion for those on the move might be the **online Daily Light** on the Daily Path from www.dailylight.co.uk. It offers a themed portion of Scripture (without notes) for every morning and evening of the year. It too, is free, but - as with Our Daily Bread (above) - donations are welcome.



The Bible app from youversion.com is free and compatible with any type of device. You'll find all sorts of reading plans, video content and room for your own notes, with a daily reminder to your phone (if that's what you use to access it) to check in. Also suggested for young people. You can follow a plan with a friend or family member on youversion and read each others notes about the daily passage.

Rooted by Teviot Creative was recommended by a chap. It's a free app for iPhones only, designed for those needing some focus amid the *"daily pressures of a busy life"*.



Up to 30 minutes a day ...

Encounter with God was recommended by two men: *"deep but not overwhelming"*, one said. Prices and availability as for Daily Bread in the 15 minutes section above.

30 minutes and longer ...

The Upper Room (BRF) is a series of meditations for solo or group reflection. The same price (and sampling opportunities) as New Daylight, above.



www.biblesociety.org.uk offers the free Lectio Divina – the 12th Century discipline of a passage accompanied by questions for meditation, prayer and contemplation but for the online age. Over three years, you study the whole Bible more or less in parallel with the lectionary cycle used in our churches. You can also find some inspiring stories on this website of how the bible has made a difference to individuals.

Bible in One Year...

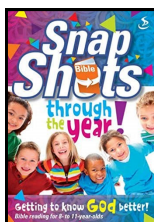
www.bibleinoneyear.org is a free app for download onto iPhones or Android. Readings come with commentary by Nicky Gumbel (the Alpha course founder), with the Bible included.

Especially for adventurers

Bear Grylls has written a book with a short thought for each day of the year.



For young people



Scripture Union's 'Snapshots through the year' offer a daily reading with questions/puzzles to complete each day. There are several editions available.

For older people

Bible Reflection for Older People from

BRF. Each issue contains 40 days of reflections and prayers. The same price (and sampling opportunities) as New Daylight, above.



Seasonal and other guides

Tom Wright is a New Testament scholar who has written the highly accessible "... *for everyone*" series (spckpublishing.co.uk) to shed light on certain books and seasons. They are available as e-publications as well as books (around £8.99). Publishers such as BRF and Scripture Union also introduce new works for seasonal reflection every year.

You can also find bible study notes for Easter, Advent, or on a specific book of the bible or theme. Ask in a local Christian Bookshop (our nearest ones are in Grove and Wallingford), look on-line, or ask a friend in Church for suggestions.

There are some free bible study notes available for you to take away and try in All Saints' Chilton and St Matthew's Harwell.

Still no time?

If none of these appeal because of time constraints, how about receiving the Verse for the Day from

www.biblestudytools.com? A verse pops into your email inbox mid-morning every day. Links are included to read the whole chapter or to compare the verse(s) in different translations if you wish, or just take away the one verse to reflect upon.

For one-off study see

www.thebibleproject.com for short films giving an oversight of each book of the bible, and on various themes.

"You are going to come across words... that stab you awake to a beauty and hope that will connect you with your real life. Be sure to respond."

Eugene H. Peterson,
The Daily Message

Homegroups

A great way to get to delve into the Bible is to join a small group where you can meet regularly to read a passage in the Bible, pray and discuss how the passage affects us today. Please contact Vicky in the Church Office for more details.