

YOUTH INSTRUCTION CLASS LESSON 2: READING YOUR BIBLE

Review

Review the material from the previous lesson. Answer the following questions about the Bible, the *Small Catechism*, and Martin Luther:

1. Martin Luther lived in: A) Germany B) France C) United States
2. The Old Testament has: A) 39 books B) 27 books C) 66 books
3. The Old Testament was written: A) After Jesus' birth B) Before Jesus' birth C) After Jesus' death
4. The New Testament was written in: A) Hebrew B) Greek C) Aramaic
5. Which is **not** a main part of the catechism? A) Baptism B) Apostles' Creed C) The Trinity
6. The **author** of the Bible is: A) Moses B) The Apostle Paul C) God

The Importance Of the Bible

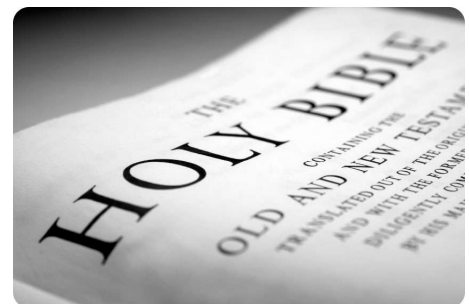
Why did God cause the Scriptures to be written in the first place?

John 20:31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

We have been given the Bible so that we can learn about Jesus and trust that He died for our sins. The Bible is the way God teaches us about Himself, and it is the way He works in our hearts so that we believe the truth. The more we read and hear about Jesus from the Bible, the more *confidence* we have in the things He has said.

Romans 10:17 Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

Because our faith in Jesus is strengthened through the Scriptures, it makes sense that we would want to use our Bibles each day. It is important for every one of us to make time for personal Bible study.



Reading the Bible

When you are learning a musical instrument, it is better to practice for a short time every day of the week instead of practicing for a long time only once a week. It is similar with reading your Bible. It is better to read a little bit every day rather than reading a lot only on one day. It is important to use your Bible *often*. This way, you will remember things better and you will get in the habit of spending time in God's word regularly.

- **Set aside 10 minutes to read your Bible each day**

The time can be in the morning, afternoon, or evening – whatever you prefer. Make sure, though, that you read at the same time each day.

When I will read my Bible: _____

- **When you sit down to read, have as few distractions as possible**

Turn off the radio or television; ask someone else in the house to take phone messages if your friends call.

- **Before you begin to read - pray**

Ask God to help you understand His word. See Luke 11:13 (1114).

Hymn 5:1 Lord, open Thou my heart to hear
And through Thy Word to me draw near;
Let me Thy Word e'er pure retain,
Let me Thy child and heir remain.

Hymn 284:6 Divine Instructor, gracious Lord,
Be Thou forever near;
Teach me to love Thy sacred Word
And view my Savior here.

- **Follow a reading schedule and mark what you have read**

Choose a Bible translation that is easy for you to read. *The New International Version* (NIV) and *An American Translation* (AAT) are good versions for young people.

- **Think about what you read**

Write down what you think is the main point of the section of Scripture you read.



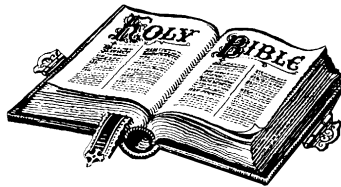
- **Get your questions answered**

If you had questions on your reading for the day, write them down to ask the pastor or another Christian friend. If you have time, try looking through other parts of the Bible to see if Scripture answers your question in another place (sometimes the notes in your Bible will help you with this).

How the Bible Is Put Together

Bible -> Old Testament & New Testament
-> Divided into books
-> Divided into chapters
-> Divided into verses

Practice finding passages in the Bible.



(Remember that the chapter and verse divisions are not an original part of the Bible. Sometimes you have to read on into the next chapter to complete a thought or section.)

How Do I Decide What To Read?

When you are first starting your Bible reading program, you may not know where to start or what sections to read. There are many different ways you can choose your reading schedule. Here are some options you can choose from:

- If your goal is to read the whole Bible, start at the beginning and read three chapters each day. At the end of a year, you will have read the whole thing.
- Choose any book of the Bible and read either one chapter or a shorter section each day. Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John are good books to start with.
- Ask the pastor what the Scripture readings for the next Sunday in church will be and read them every day during the week. When Sunday comes and they are read in the service, they should sound familiar to you!
- Use a topical Bible to find passages on something you would like to learn more about. Read two or three passages each day on your chosen topic.
- Read one of the psalms each day. It will take you about five months to read them all. (If you read five each day, you will get through all the psalms in one month.)
- Each day, choose a hymn from the hymnal. Look for the Scripture reference that goes with the hymn. Read the hymn and read the Bible verses that fit the hymn.

Other Ways To "Read" the Bible

Sometimes it's nice to have someone else read to you. It is easy to get recordings of the Bible on tape or on CD. Some people like to listen to someone else read the Bible while they follow along. If you would like to try this, your pastor can help you get a recording of the Bible that you can listen to at home.

There are some videos that have a narrator reading the Bible while the action is shown in pictures. This can also be a way to "read" in God's word.

Assignment

- Follow the reading schedule this week from the book of Luke (Reading Schedule 1).