

How to Start Reading the Bible *in 10 Steps*



Catholic Bible

Many Catholics have tried to read the Bible throughout their lives but almost all express a desire to read it more. Oftentimes, the hardest part is just getting started. Use the 10 steps below to start your journey through Sacred Scripture or pick up where you left off!

1

PICK A TIME, BUT NOT JUST ANY TIME.

Commit to a time each day that you'll open God's Word, but make sure it's an intelligent time. If you're really tired at the end of the day, for example, then reading the Bible once you're in bed probably isn't the best time. Pick a time when you can give your full attention.

2

PICK A BIBLE THAT YOU CAN UNDERSTAND.

Get yourself a good Catholic Bible. If you don't have one right now, that shouldn't keep you from reading. The best translation today is the one that you already have. It's important that your Bible is comfortable to read, light enough to take with you, durable enough to really use, and suitable for writing or marking in.

3

PRAY, AND THEN PRAY SOME MORE.

Before you open God's Word, ask the author of that word—the Holy Spirit—to be present in a bold and fierce way. Quiet yourself, spend some time in silence, and hold the Bible in your hands as you pray. Ask God to open your mind, your eyes, and your heart to his truth. Thank him for the gift of his Word.

4

HAVE A PLAN.

If you were planning on reading the Bible cover to cover ... don't. The Bible isn't a novel. To truly understand Scripture, we must first learn the big picture and only later are we able to focus on smaller portraits. See [The Great Adventure Catholic Bible](#) for a plan that's focused on understanding the story of salvation.

5

GET THE BACKGROUND.

Take the time to learn about each book you're reading. Learn who the author was, who he was writing to, and what the basic themes are. When you know the context and goals of what you're reading, the words will jump out at you in a much different way and you will have better insight.

6

LESS IS MORE.

Don't just open up the Bible and read until you get tired or for fifteen minutes because that's what you committed to. Read one chapter or subchapter and spend some time meditating on it. Studying the Scriptures is not about how much distance you can cover. Give what you're reading the attention it deserves.

7

JOURNAL.

As you're reading, write down verses that confuse you, questions that arise, and reflections that stir within you. Write down images God gives you in your imagination. Record key verses that stand out to you spiritually. God will reveal a great deal about yourself to you when you let him.

8

BUILD THE HABIT.

Some days you'll be excited to sit down with your Bible and some days you won't. That's okay! But even when days are busy and excuses arise for not sitting down with Scripture, commit to following your plan anyway. Building a new habit takes time. Give God the time he needs to reveal his Sacred Word to you.

9

PUT THE BOOK DOWN.

The Bible is the living Word. It lives and breathes well beyond the page that contains it. Share what you learn. Write out passages and post them up in your room, locker, or office. Email verses to people. Put them on the fridge. The greatest gift you can give someone is to live a life that mirrors the Gospels.

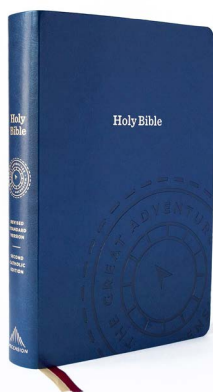
10

LET THE WORD OF GOD CHANGE YOUR LIFE.

Get the tools, pull together your plan, and start building your love for God's Word. The Word of God can't change you if you're not reading it, but once you start, you give God permission to work in your life through his Sacred and living Word. This is an invitation into our hearts that he can't pass up.

Adapted from "How to Start Reading the Bible in 10 Steps" by Mark Hart.

***The Great Adventure Catholic Bible* Teaches Catholics How to Read and Understand It**



This bestselling Bible is the only Catholic Bible in the world with the color-coded *Bible Timeline*® Learning System that leads readers through the story of salvation. It also has detailed charts that outline the important characters and key events of each time period and articles that explain the necessary context and background. If you want to start reading Scripture and understand what you're reading, this Bible will teach you how! Get a copy at ascensionpress.com/bible and start your journey through Scripture today.

