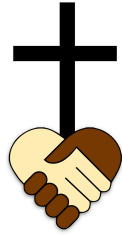


**St.
Mark's**
Forest Gate



Reading the Bible

Five Practical Tips

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How should we approach our reading of the Bible in order to ensure that we get the most out of it and meet with God through it?

1. Reading the Bible should really be a daily commitment

Think of Scripture as bread and of nourishing yourself on it. Stale bread doesn't satisfy which is why we need to come to it daily so that the word remains fresh and fulfilling

2. Take time in a quiet, still place, preferably at the beginning of the day

Pray before you open the word. It's important that we are focused on God and attuned to all that He might have to say to us and that means consciously putting everything else to one side

3. Then read a short passage

Anything too long and you may well be overwhelmed and take very little from it. But if it's reasonably short, you can really savour every word. A good discipline is to read the same passage three times, taking a break between each reading to ensure that you've understood it and giving yourself sufficient time to reflect and to ask God to draw your attention to anything significant that he might want you to be aware of

4. When you've finished reading and contemplating the passage, conclude by asking God to help you remember what you've read and to put whatever lessons have emerged from it into practice

God doesn't just want us to read his word and walk away but rather to ensure that his word becomes part of our life

5. Don't worry if you're not struck by anything in particular

That's often the case when I read God's word - but you can still pray that through it, God will make a difference to your life and draw you closer to Him

If you're not sure where to start with the Bible or would like more help unpacking it, please do speak with me because I can certainly suggest all sorts of guides, commentaries and other materials to help you get the most out of it.



There is no substitute for God's word and we do ourselves and God a great disservice if we ignore it, often to our cost. So please don't neglect the word of God; pray that God would make you hungry for it and come to it expecting God to speak and to transform your life for your good and for his glory. God's promise is that He will.



