

Handout **7** The Bible — the world's bestseller

home page

The Bible tells the story of God, and especially the story of Jesus. God caused it to be written, and God wants us to read it.



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What's it all about?

The Bible is like a library. There are lots of different types of book in it – stories, histories, eyewitness accounts, law books, poetry and letters.

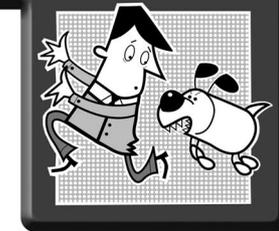
There are two main parts:

- The Old Testament – telling the story of the people of Israel up until Jesus.
- The New Testament – telling the story of Jesus and the early Church.

Direct Line

Christians believe that the Bible, although it was written down by ordinary human beings, is inspired by God. Through the Bible, God has made his purposes and his personality known.

- The Old Testament is like a map, showing us how to live well and find peace with God. It was written over a period of 1,000 years.
- The New Testament is a guide. It shows us Jesus. It gives us eyewitness accounts of what he did and said: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and the Acts of the Apostles – written within 60 years of Jesus' death and resurrection.
- It also contains letters, mostly from Paul, written to help new Christians to grow.



Everything in the Scriptures is God's Word. All of it is useful for teaching and helping people and for correcting them and showing them how to live.

2 Timothy 3.16 CEV

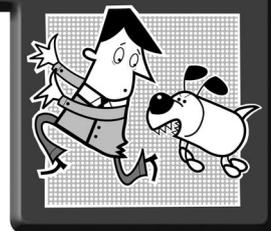
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Free sample

The Bible describes itself as a light which helps us to see how to live.

Your word is like a lamp for my feet and a light for my path.

Psalms 119.105 NCV



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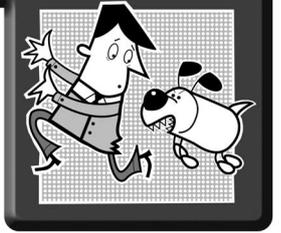


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Write the Bible verse you chose here in the box ...



Read it during the week and see what a difference it makes!

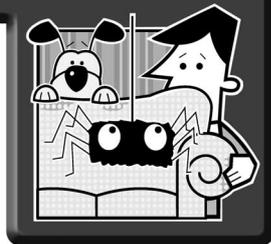
Be practical

Here are 7 tips to help you read your Bible:

1. Read a modern version you can understand.
2. Don't try to read it from cover to cover, or use it as a lucky dip.
3. Pray that God will help you to understand what you read.
4. Try to listen to what God is saying to you as you read it.
5. Use your imagination. What must it have been like for the people involved?
6. Try using Bible notes. They help you read and understand the Bible.
7. Read a little bit and then think. Don't expect to understand everything all of the time to understand everything all of the time.

interfacing

Read the verse you wrote in the Free Sample box each day before you pray.



processing

What is *your* favourite bit of the Bible and why?

Come along next week ready to tell people.



do something about it

Read a Bible! Try a chunk of Mark or Luke or try out some Bible notes.



coming soon

Next week: God's people, the Church.

