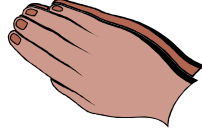


How to Study the Bible?

Basically there are four basic steps to studying the Bible:

1. **Praise God and ask for God's help** (Prayer)
 - Pray before and after you study the Bible
 - Thank God for what you have learnt
 - Confess your sins and trust that Jesus has forgiven you
 - Ask for God's help to change to follow His way
2. **What does it say?** (Observation)
 - Ask questions about the passage like:
Who? What? Where? Why? How?
 - Write down any questions that you have.
 - Is there a main idea?
 - What does it say about God? Jesus? Humans?
3. **What does it mean?** (Understanding)
 - How does this fit into the Bible's overall story?
 - How does the immediate context explain the meaning?
 - Does another part of the Bible help explain this?
 - Look up any **cross-references** listed in your Bible
 - Use a **concordance** or search to see how a word is used in another part of the Bible: <http://www.biblegateway.com/>
 - Use a **Bible Dictionary** (available in the Chaplains' Office) to look up meanings of words:
4. **What does it mean for me?** (Application)
 - What is the general principle or truth of this passage?
 - Does this principle apply to me the same way as for the original readers or is it different?
 - Should I change what I say, do or think?



Welcome to Focus¹

Who are we?

Focus stands for Fellowship of Overseas Christian University Students. We were formerly known as 'IBM - International Bible Ministries. We are part of the Evangelical Christian club called ECU at the University of Wollongong.²



Focus exists to serve international students. Our aim is to explain the Bible in simple English for non-native speakers so that they may understand God's word and trust Jesus as their King and Saviour.

Our **Thursday** nights' Main Meeting starts at **7pm** in **Bldg 19.G026**. It consists of singing, prayer, Bible reading, Bible talk, question & answer time and supper. Our meetings are free and we welcome people from all backgrounds, Christian & non-Christian. For more details about us: Vist our **Website** <http://ecuwoollongong.org/focus/>

Bible Study Groups

Monday 7pm Girls Group 5/58 McKenzie Av	Contact Susan
Monday 7:30pm 10/27 Hercules St, Woll	Contact Jon or Morwenna
Wednesday 7pm 24 Rowland St, Wollongong	Contact Damien
Friday 7pm 2/233 Gipps Road, Keiraville	Contact Nick or Vivi

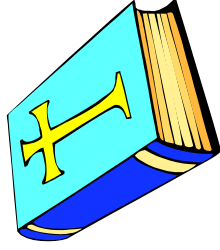
Need Help? Contact our staff for prayer, a lift to Focus etc:

Matthew Meek	0400-270-424	mmeek@uow.edu.au
Andrew Beddoe	0425-284-849	andrew.beddoe@yahoo.com.au
Jon Baird	0409-049-416	jbsalutes@yahoo.com.au
Morwenna Baird		morwennaw@gmail.com
Tim Nicholls	0422-023-899	twiggym@hotmail.com
Nick Wang	0432-024-083	wangdongnic@gmail.com
Damien Craig	0410-828-926	daemonic666@gmail.com
Susan Williams		susanwilliams85@yahoo.com.au
Emma Beddoe		emmabeddoe@hotmail.com
Maggie Yasugi		mshin@umich.edu

¹ Written by Tim Nicholls, Staff AFES Wollongong, dated 26 February, 2009

² We are linked to both the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (AFES) www.afes.org.au and the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES).

A Guide to the Bible



Understanding the Bible:

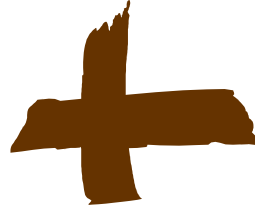
- It is God's spoken word (2 Timothy 3:16), written by human authors (2 Peter 1:20-21)
- It was written between 1,500BC and 100AD.
- It is 1 whole book made up of 66 individual books.
- It has 2 main sections the Old & New Testament

Old Testament (OT):

- The Old Testament has 39 books, written originally in Hebrew
- It tells us God's plan for humans from Adam the 1st one (Genesis 1)
- It explains human rebellion against God's plan called "sin" and God's judgment upon human sin (Genesis 3).
- It tells us God's plan to save people from that judgment and bless humans through Abraham & his descendants "Israel" (Genesis 12)
- Most of the OT describes the history of Israel, and looks forward to a King from Israel who will save people and rule the world.

New Testament (NT):

- This has 27 books, written originally in Greek
- It tells us that Jesus is God's promised world King to save people, called the "Christ"
- It begins with Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection to new life (Matthew-John)
- Jesus now rules our world as King from heaven (Acts 2)
- Jesus will return to judge us and bring the new creation



Purpose of the Bible:

- To bring people back into to a right relationship with God through trusting Jesus as their King and Saviour (2 Timothy 3:15)

FAQ: Is the Bible true? Does God exist? What about other religions?

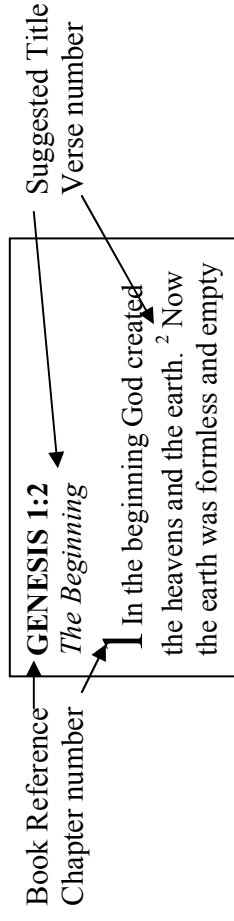
Find answers at: <http://www.Christianity.net.au>

Can I read the Bible online? Go to <http://bible.gospelcom.net/>



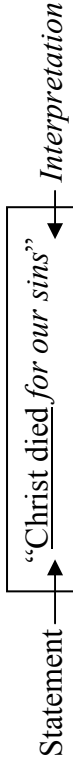
How to Read the Bible?

Looking up Bible References: Use the index in the front of the Bible. **Genesis 1:2** means the book of Genesis, chapter 1, verse 2



Basic Bible Reading Guide

- It uses different styles of writing (law, letters, poetry, history)
- We need to read poetry as poetry (often symbolic) and history as history (usually literal).
- We need to accept that the Bible as true (Psalm 33:4, John 17:17)
- We read the Bible with an attitude of being willing to trust and obey God's word (James 1:22)
- The Bible itself interprets the Bible e.g. 1 Corinthians 15:3



- The context explains the meaning of words.
- The Old Testament points forward to Jesus (Luke 24:44), and the New Testament explains what Jesus has done for us.

Old Testament → **Jesus** ← **New Testament**

- When reading the OT we need to ask, "How has Jesus fulfilled this?" and then "How has what Jesus done apply to me?"

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God not by works, so that no one can boast" **Ephesians 2:8-9**