

14 Ways to Get Beyond the Cover

Recently a small group of men met to talk about the challenge of making life changes. The subject of “reading the Bible” came up. The following are their ideas and practices on how to get “beyond the cover” of the Bible.

1. Purchase an easy reading version of the Bible. “The Message” version or “The Living Translation” are good ones.
2. Put your Bible where you can easily find it.
3. Plan to read the whole Bible in a year.
4. Plan to read a chapter a day for a year.
5. Plan to read a verse a day for the a year.
6. Have a plan to read. There are lots of them. North Pointe uses a daily reading plan to go through the Bible in a year. Knowing where to read is 90% of the battle of starting to read.
7. Buy a “One Year Bible” and follow the reading plan in that book.
8. Plan to read the Bible like a book. Start in Genesis and read as far as you want. Then keep reading where you left off the next time you pick up the Bible. Use an easy to read version. Don’t feel obligated to read everyday. If you hit genealogies and you get bogged down, skip ‘em.
9. Listen to the Bible on CD. Download a version of the Bible to hear in your car or when you are walking, jogging or running.
10. Go beyond reading and do a word study. For example, look up all the occurrences of the word “love” or “forgive” or “give” or “faith.” Record the verse and what you think God is saying to you through the verse.
11. Try reading a whole Gospel (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John) in one sitting.
12. Read Luke and Acts together. Luke wrote them both and they link Jesus’ birth, life, death, resurrection and ministry through the Holy Spirit.
13. Read a psalm and a proverb everyday – that is Billy Graham’s practice.
14. Plan to read your Bible before you read anything else in your day – first things first.