

- **Dale Ralph Davies Commentaries**

Accessible commentaries. Good for a slower study of a Bible book.

- **By God's word** – Philip Jensen. Matthias Media
60 reflections with passages from the Bible to read.

- **For the love of God** – Don Carson. IVP

Will help you read the bible in a year (or more!!) with some reflections on a passage. There are two volumes each with the same reading outline but with comments on different passages.

- **Seeing and Savouring Jesus Christ** – John Piper

Great if you want something a bit different to change your routine. Can be downloaded for free from www.desiringgod.org - other helpful reads there too!

- **Using sermons** – e.g. Thursday – Saturday study in preparation for the sermon and Monday – Wednesday study in response.

Ideas for applying what you read

- Think of one point you want to remember or try to summarise the passage in your own words – THEN see if you can remember it last thing at night. The challenge of remembering gets you thinking about it throughout the day!
- One friend does her quiet time in the morning and in the evening shares with her husband what she learnt.
- Memorise scripture.

Ideas for prayer

- Take a small diary around with you and write things down to pray for. Use this in your quiet times.
- Write down your prayers.
- As you read the passage think of one thing to thank God for, one thing to pray for yourself and one thing to pray for a friend or situation.
- Use prayer ideas from charities to help you pray for the persecuted church.
- If your church does a prayer diary – use it!
- List particular people, places, organisations and things you want to pray about regularly and plan what day of the month you will pray for each.
- Pray while you go for a run or walk the dog. *(Clearly the ideas of people who are fitter than me!)*

Personal Bible reading & prayer engaging with God on your own

1. Quiet times are hard!

What aspect of doing quiet times do you find the biggest challenge?

2. Why do a quiet time?

Because quiet times help me to **STICK WITH JESUS!**

The reason Paul writes to the Colossians is to help them **STICK WITH JESUS!**

Paul wants them to:

- not be deceived by very believable or attractive false teaching. (see 2:4, 8)
- see the greatness of Jesus and so not imagine they could ever have better than him. (see 1:23)
- stick with the basic gospel – keeping deeply rooted in Christ so they grow and mature. (see 2:6-7)

Start with Jesus – **STICK WITH JESUS!**

Colossians 3:1-3

¹Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

Quiet times help us to:

- not be deceived by very believable or attractive false teaching.
- see the greatness of Jesus and so not imagine we could ever have better than him.
- stick with the basic gospel – keeping us deeply rooted in Christ so we grow and mature.

3. How to engage with God on your own

If you want to engage with God – read the Bible and pray!

- **Understanding the Bible**

Get help!

- **Applying the Bible**

Stay fresh!

- **Knowing what and how to pray**

Plagiarise! (*Praygiarise?!*)

4. Make the most of your time!

- **Be ruthless**

- **Be creative**

- **Be realistic**

Tips from my lovely church family

Helpful reads

General books on quiet times

- ‘Time Well Spent’ - Colin Webster. Alpha/Paternoster
- ‘Improving your quiet time’ – Simon J. Robinson. DayOne

Understanding the Bible

- ‘Dig Deeper! Tools to unearth the Bible’s treasure’ – Nigel Beynon & Andrew Sach. IVP
- ‘How to read the Bible for all its worth’ – Fee & Stuart. Zondervan

Prayer

- A Call to spiritual reformation – Don Carson
- ‘Bold I Approach - prayer’ – Tony Payne. Matthias Media (available from the good book company)

Time management

- ‘Shopping for time – how to do it all and not be overwhelmed’ – Carolyn Mahaney (& her daughters). Crossway

Ideas to help you understand the Bible

- **The Ichthus File** – Matthias media, available from 10ofthose.com. *Undated notes covering the whole Bible. These are aimed at teens but for many people I’ve spoken to are the best daily reading notes for really understanding the Bible for yourself. They are pretty ‘nineties’ and have been re-done – now called ‘Engage’ – I’ve not tried the new format though.*

- **Explore** – available from the good book company

Dated Bible reading notes

- **The Daily reading Bible** – available from the good book company *Undated. The passage is printed in the booklet along with questions – really helpful if you are busy and great for carrying around with you and pulling out when you get time to study.*

- Bible studies at the back of **The Briefing Magazine**

I think the Daily Reading Bible is based on these. Handy if you get the magazine. Useful and short!

A quiet time review...

- Has my quiet time simply been growing my brain or has it been growing my godliness?
- What sin have I been challenged about recently? How am I responding to the challenge? Is there something I can do or change to help myself in this area?
- What would it look like if I REALLY believed what I've been studying this week? What would disbelief look like?
- How have I been growing more like Jesus?
- Is there any more reading or thinking I need to do?
- What am I going to study next?
- Am I devoting enough time to my quiet times? Does anything need to change to help me do this?

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