

PRAY with Scripture

St. Jerome, an early Church teacher and priest, said it best: "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ Himself." It is simply impossible for us to know Jesus without knowing the Bible. After all, the Bible is the story of Jesus. In the New Testament in particular, we have first-hand accounts of His life – the kinds of things He said and did. We have biographical information from the people who knew Him best.

If we want to get to know a celebrity, we will likely read their memoir or biographies of their life. We can look at the Bible in a similar way. The difference is that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. What we read aren't just words strung together by a person, but the truth of God revealed. Words capable of transforming, healing, and drawing us close to Him, the author of Creation.

Habit 2



PRAY with Scripture





A Simple Guide for Praying with Scripture: Read. Reflect. Respond. Rest.

READ the Scripture passage. (Limit yourself to one heading.)
REFLECT on the word or phrase that stood out to you. Why do you think that is?
RESPOND by talking to Jesus about what you're pondering.
REST in silence and listen for the Lord's response.

Helpful Questions to Ponder When You are Stuck:

- What does this passage teach me about God/Jesus?
- What does this passage show me about myself?

Tips and Tricks to Get Started:

- Start with the Gospels. (Find the daily Gospel reading at usccb.org.)
- Don't worry about the whole meaning of the passage. Focus on what the Holy Spirit is pointing out to you. Feel free to make notes and mark up the text! This can really help.
- Be patient with yourself; it takes time to get used to this.
- Talk through the reading with a friend or family member to get other perspectives.
- Don't let an app do the praying for you! Reading what someone else says about the reading can indeed be helpful, but it isn't a substitute for you actually talking to God about it yourself.