



## Bible Sunday 2017

*"As we read [the Bible], we enter a new world of words and find ourselves in on a conversation in which God has the first and last words... and we are included in the conversation. The Bible is not only written about us, but to us. God uses words to form and bless us, to teach and guide us, to forgive and save us."*

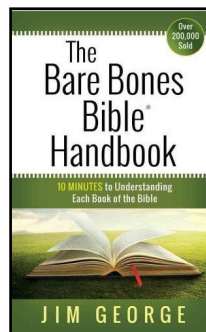
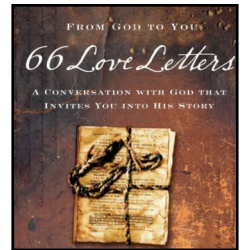
Eugene H. Peterson,  
Introduction to The Daily Message

Given this introduction, who wouldn't want to make reading the Bible a (more) regular routine?! But the choice of reading guides to help us can seem overwhelming. On this Bible Sunday, we asked a cross-section of people of all ages, backgrounds and faith journeys which notes they use. Any reading of the Bible is better than none, and the most disheartening thing is to start a new regime which you can't sustain. We've split the recommendations into the time you might be able to devote to it, and added some suggestions for particular life-stages.

## The bigger picture

Let's start with a couple of aids to understanding the context of the Bible when you do come to read it.

These two have been suggested:  
**66 Love Letters** by **Larry Crabb** (New Way Ministries, £9.99), which promises to help you "discover the larger story of the Bible". You can find a pdf of the book at [www.fellowshipofchristianfirefighters.com](http://www.fellowshipofchristianfirefighters.com)



Another personal recommendation was **The Bare Bones Bible Handbook** by Jim George (Harvest House, £9.99). George includes a one-year reading plan and commentary for personal application of the Bible to daily living. There is also a BBBH for Teens in the series.

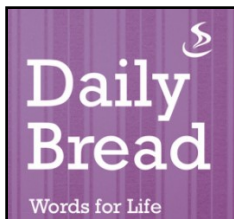
## Bible translations

Our churches use the **New International Version** (NIV) but other popular versions include **New Living Translation** (NLT) and **The Message**. Did you know there is a **dyslexic friendly version** available from the Bible Society? There's also the **International Childrens Bible** (ICB) and the **Good News Bible**. You can view different translations for free on [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com).

## 15 minutes a day ...

### Daily Bread from Scripture Union.

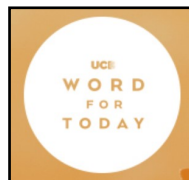
Cornerstone Bookshop in Grove or The Fountain in Wallingford stock or can order them in if you don't want to do it yourself online at [www.scriptureunion.org.uk](http://www.scriptureunion.org.uk). It is quarterly at £4.49 per issue and comes as a booklet (including large print) or an e-book, Kindle book or PDF. You can buy an annual subscription and they send them to you through the year.



**Our Daily Bread** from Our Daily Bread Ministries. This is a free, quarterly series. The worldwide ODBM network is funded entirely by donations, so each booklet is accompanied by an envelope in case you are able to send an offering. Enquire at [europe@odb.org](mailto:europe@odb.org) or ring 01539 564149 to get on the mailing list. There's also a daily Facebook devotional on the same reading. See [Facebook.com/ourdailybread](https://Facebook.com/ourdailybread)

### UCB Word for Today

is a free, hard copy resource or, if you choose to take it online/by phone, you can choose to hear or read the commentary on the set passage. The American audio delivery may not suit everyone! Have a look or sign up at [www.ucb.co.uk](http://www.ucb.co.uk) where you can also find the Looking for God resources for those who have just become Christians.



**New Daylight** (BRF) comes out three times a year costing £16.50 annually. You can sample all the BRF booklets (available in print, as download, email, audio and as an app) at [www.biblereadingnotes.org.uk](http://www.biblereadingnotes.org.uk). New Daylight was the print choice of – among others – people with a bus/train journey, as the passages are set out and you don't have to carry a Bible with you as well!

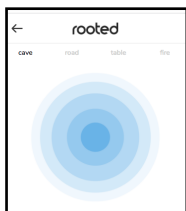
A second suggestion for those on the move might be the **online Daily Light** on the Daily Path from [www.dailylight.co.uk](http://www.dailylight.co.uk). It offers a themed portion of Scripture (without notes) for every morning and evening of the year. It too, is free, but - as with Our Daily Bread (above) - donations are welcome.



The Bible app from **youversion.com** is free and compatible with any type of device. You'll find all sorts of reading plans, video content and room for your own notes, with a daily reminder to your phone (if that's what you use to access it) to check in. Also suggested for young people.

### **Rooted** by Teviot

Creative was recommended by a chap. It's a free app for iPhones only, designed for those needing some focus amid the "*daily pressures of a busy life*".

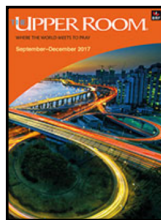


Finally, **WordLive** from Scripture Union delivers a daily Bible passage with notes. The "classic" version can be sent to you by email. If you have longer to devote, there is a "lectio" version which builds in time for meditation. ([www.wordlive.org](http://www.wordlive.org))

### **Up to 30 minutes a day ...**

**Encounter with God** was recommended by two men: "*deep but not overwhelming*", one said. Prices and availability as for Daily Bread in the 15 minutes section above.

### **30 minutes and longer ...**



The **Upper Room** (BRF) is a series of meditations for solo or group reflection. The same price (and sampling opportunities) as New Daylight, above.

[www.biblesociety.org.uk](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk) offers the free Lectio Divina – the 12th Century discipline of a passage accompanied by questions for meditation, prayer and contemplation but for the online age. Over three years, you study the whole Bible more or less in parallel with the lectionary cycle used in our churches. You can also find some inspiring stories on this website of how the bible has made a difference to individuals.

### **Bible in One Year...**

[www.bibleinoneyear.org](http://www.bibleinoneyear.org) is a free app for download onto iPhones or Android. Readings come with commentary by Nicky Gumbel (the Alpha course founder), with the Bible included.

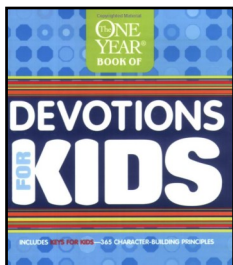


### **Especially for women**

**Day by Day** from BRF, published 3 times a year. The same price (and sampling opportunities) as New Daylight, above.

## For young people

Our Children and Families work team recommends the **One Year series from Children's Bible**



**Hour.** There's One Year of Devotions for Kids, or ... for Boys, or ... for Girls, plus a book of sports devotions and others based around activities.

Available in Kindle or print versions, we spotted the hard copy on Amazon at around £9.

Teenagers may also like The Bible app by YouVersion.com – more details in the 15 minutes section above.

## For older people



**Bible Reflection for Older People** from BRF. Each issue contains 40 days of reflections and prayers. The same price (and sampling opportunities) as New Daylight, above.

## Seasonal and other guides

Tom Wright is a New Testament scholar who has written the highly accessible "... for everyone" series (spckpublishing.co.uk) to shed light on certain books and seasons. They are available as e-publications as well as books (around £8.99). Publishers such as BRF and Scripture Union also introduce new works for seasonal reflection every year.

## Still no time?

If none of these appeal because of time constraints, how about receiving the Verse for the Day from **www.biblestudytools.com**? A verse pops into your email inbox mid-morning every day. Links are included to read the whole chapter or to compare the verse(s) in different translations if you wish, or just take away the one verse to reflect upon.

For one-off study see **www.thebibleproject.com** for short films giving an oversight of each book of the bible, and on various themes.

*"You are going to come across words... that stab you awake to a beauty and hope that will connect you with your real life. Be sure to respond."*

Eugene H. Peterson,  
The Daily Message