



## Introduction to the List of Readings

This list of readings has been prepared to give you a sample of the Bible's riches. Feel free to use this list in whatever way you wish. You might like to read the selections one at a time, or to read a few at one sitting. Take the selections in whatever order you please, and don't be afraid to wander into passages which we haven't included here. The bible is a gift of God to you, and – as with all the best gifts – the more you get to know it, the more you will love it.

## Five Steps to Effective Bible Reading

1. **Pray** that God will speak to you as you read and listen to his word.  
*Open my eyes, so that I may see the wonderful truths in your law. (Psalm 119:18)*
2. **Read** slowly and carefully, allowing God's word to speak to your heart.
3. **Think** on the message that God's word is bringing you.  
*What does it tell you of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit? Has God's word something to say to you about yourself, others and your life situations?*
4. **Do** something practical to put God's word into action in your life.
5. **Pray** using the reading of God's word to praise and thank God and to ask His help for your self and others.

## Prayers

### *Individual*

“Open my eyes, so that I may see the wonderful truths in your law”.  
*(Psalm 119 v. 18)*

Open my ears so that I may hear you speaking to me.  
Open my mind so that I may understand what you are saying to me.  
Open my hands so that I obey and serve you.  
Open my heart so that I may love you and my neighbours,  
for you are Love, O Lord, my God.  
Amen

### *Family*

God of Love,  
We belong to your family and to this family.  
We love you an each other.  
We want to serve you and each other.  
Help us to hear what you are saying to us through our reading of your Word,  
And give us grace and strength to obey you in our daily lives.  
Amen.

### 1. **Hope and Promises**

People were looking towards the future that God would bring. When Jesus came he fulfilled that hope.

Promise of a new King	Jeremiah 33:14-16
Promise of a new ruler	Micah 5:1-5a
Promise of a new peace	Zechariah 9:9-10
Promise of a new reign	Daniel 7:13-14
Promise of a new world	Isaiah 35:1-10

### 2. **Examples of Faith**

Faith means trusting in God even in the most extraordinary circumstances; from earliest times men and women have demonstrated this faith in their lives.

Faith in the face of the unknown	Hebrews 11:1-12
Faith in the face of mental anguish	1 Samuel 1:9-18
Faith in face of danger	1 Samuel 17:31-51
Faith in the face of physical anguish	Job 19:25-37
Faith in face of the unimaginable	Luke 1:26-36

### 3. **Call and Mission**

From among our ancestors in faith God called different people; very often the most unlikely to carry our His plan.

Call of Abraham	Genesis 12:1-2
Call of Moses	Exodus 3:7-12
Call of David	1 Samuel 16:12-13
Call of Jeremiah	Jeremiah 1:1-19
Call of Saul	Acts 9:1-19

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The fulfilment of God's promises and of the peoples' hopes is made real in Jesus, uniquely human and divine. The Gospels present us with many aspects of Jesus' life.

### 4. **Jesus, who is he?**

Son of God	Matthew 3:13-17
The Messiah	Mark 8:27-29
The Suffering Servant	Mark 8:31-33
Way to the Father	John 14:6-14
Saviour	John 12:47

### 5. **Jesus offer of new life**

New wine	John 2:1-12
New temple	John 2:13-22
New birth	John 3:1-21
New worship	John 4:1-27
New life	John 4:43-54

### 6. **Living in the Kingdom**

Jesus told stories	Matthew 13:10-17
Kingdom is worth everything	Matthew 13:44-46
Responsibility for the Kingdom	Matthew 25:14-26
Invitation to the Kingdom	Matthew 22:1-14
Ready for the coming of the Kingdom	Matthew 25:31-46

### 7. **Stories of Living in the Kingdom**

Relating to your enemy	Matthew 5:21-26
Relating to opposite sex	Matthew 5:27-32
Relating to material goods	Matthew 6:24-31
Relating to the Law	Matthew 5:17-20
Relating to yourself	Matthew 5:1-12

## 8. **Jesus challenges**

His friends	Matthew 16:17-19
The Disciples	Mark 10:42
The Apostle Paul	John 13:1-9
The crowds	Luke 13:22-30
The rich young man	Mark 10:17-27

## 9. **Jesus' call is for all**

The Twelve	Luke 5:1-11
The children	Mark 10:13-16
The outcasts	Luke 17:11-19
The despised	Luke 19:1-10
The heavily burdened	Matthew 11:28-30

## 10. **Jesus Inspires Prayer**

Mary's Prayer	Luke 1:46-55
Simeon's Prayer	Luke 2:25-35
Jesus' Prayer of Thanksgiving	Luke 10:21-24
Jesus' Model for Prayer	Luke 11:1-4
Perseverance in Prayer	Luke 11:5-13

## 11. **Jesus in Conflict**

Satan in temptations	Matthew 4:1-11
The Pharisees	Luke 6:1-5
The Sadducees	Mark 12:18-27
The Temple Dealers	Matthew 21:12-17
Annas and Caiaphas	John 18:12-24

## 12. **Suffering and Death of Jesus**

Suffering predicted	Mark 14:12-26
Foretaste of suffering	Mark 14:32-52
Loneliness of suffering	Mark 14:53-72
Suffering the injustice	Mark 15:1-20
Ultimate suffering	Mark 15:21-41

## 13. **Jesus is alive**

Alive to Peter and John	John 20:1-10
Alive to Mary Magdalene	John 20:11-18
Alive to Thomas and Apostles	John 20:19-29
Alive in Galilee	John 21:1-14
Alive on Emmaus Road	Luke 24:13-35

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The life, death and resurrection of Jesus have implications for our lives and for the issues we face.

#### 14. **Forgiveness**

Forgiveness is the process through which we become reconciled with God and with each other.

A God who forgives	Micah 7:18-19
Basis for forgiveness	Romans 3:23-25
Need to forgive one another	Matthew 6:14
An experience of forgiveness	Luke 7:43-47
Prayer for forgiveness	Acts 7:54-60

#### 15. **Repentance**

To repent is to turn from our own ways and to return to God. An awareness of God's goodness leads us to repentance.

Acknowledgement of wrong-doing Nehemiah 1:5-11

Repentance brings wholeness Hosea 14:1-8

Jesus preaches repentance Mark 1:14-15

God rejoices when we repent Luke 15:7

God inspires repentance 2 Corinthians 7:9-11

#### 16. **Peace**

Jesus' first words to his disciples after his resurrection were 'Peace be with you' signalling that his victory has brought peace and harmony between God and humanity.

Everlasting peace Isaiah 2:1-5

Blessings of peace Leviticus 26:3-13

Prince of peace Isaiah 9:2-7

Jesus promises peace John 14:27

#### 17. **Justice**

Justice is a harmony which comes from fidelity to a right relationship with God, with neighbour and with the land.

Justice is for living Leviticus 25:13-19

Worship without justice Amos 5:21-27

God requires justice Micah 6:8

Jesus preaches justice Luke 11:42-46

Justice for everybody James 2:1-4

#### 18. **Hope**

The Old Testament breathes an atmosphere of hope. The basis of hope is the past deeds of God. For the Christian promises come true in Jesus, our hope.

Hope in God alone Psalms 62:1-8

Hope for the future Jeremiah 29:11

Hope in all things Romans 8:35-39

Hope through the Resurrection 1 Corinthians 15:19-22

A secure anchor Hebrews 6:17-19

## 19. Love

The perfection of the Christian's love for God is tested by the love shown to one another.

Unqualified love	Ruth 1:6-12
Love is slow to anger	Numbers 14:17-19
Love is the fulfilling of the law	Romans 13:8-10
Love defined	1 Corinthians 13:4-8
Love in action	1 John 3:17-18

Our place in God's world. Have we been faithful?

## 20. Creation

God's creation	Genesis 1:1-25
Stewards of God's creation	Psalm 8
Jesus teaches from creation	Matthew 6:25-34
Creation waits for wholeness	Romans 8:18-25
New creation	Revelation 21:1-6

## Reading Further

If you have read the passages contained in this guide, you will probably want to keep discovering the Bible's riches. You might like to start reading some of the shorter New Testament books like First Letter of John, or St Paul's Letters to the Galatians or the Philippians. But don't be afraid of the Old Testament; you will find that books like Ruth, Psalms and Proverbs are full of encouragement and insight. You might even want to work through parts of the List of Readings again to become familiar with some of the important passages included there.

## How to find help

The National Bible Society of Ireland stocks a wide range of material which can help you learn about the Word of God. You can avail of these and other services through our *Bestseller* bookshop at 41 Dawson Street, Dublin 2. Telephone +353 1 677 3272. Web: [www.biblesociety.ie](http://www.biblesociety.ie)

*"...Submit to God and accept the word that he plants in your hearts, which is able to save you. Do not deceive yourselves by just listening to his word; instead, put it into practice."* (James 1:22)