

Do you love reading the Bible or want to read it in a supportive and friendly group?

This simple resource shows you how to create a Bible Book Club in your parish or school.

# Bible Book Club



*'Scripture is intended to speak to today's believers, to touch their present lives with their problems, to enlighten the steps to be taken and the decisions to be made. This becomes possible only when believers read and interpret the sacred texts under the guidance of the same Spirit who inspired them.'*

**Pope Leo XIV. (General Audience, Vatican, February 2026).**

# Let's Get Started.

The Word of God is a real source of strength:  
Jesus pointed out:  
*'Scripture says: One does not live on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'*  
**Matthew 4.4.**

## How does it work?

Here's a checklist to think about before you run a Bible Book Club.

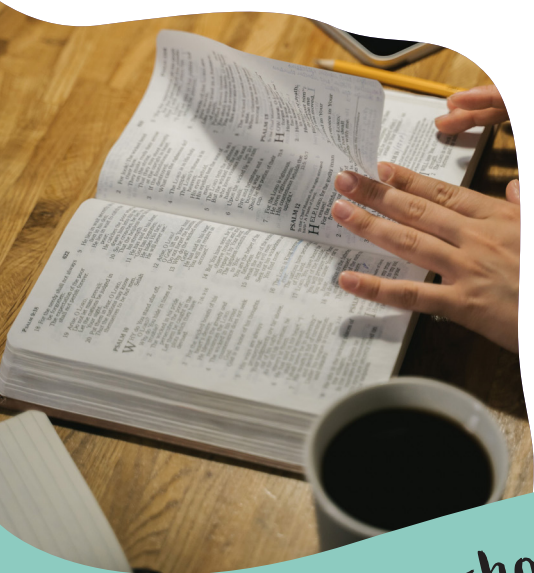
### How often should you meet?

A monthly meeting normally gives people enough time to read the book or extract from the book and is frequent enough to build momentum.



### How do you choose a book from the Bible?

You could take it in turns to choose a book or extract from a book, take a vote or decide to work through a section or genre of the Bible.



## Start with the short books.

If you want to start with the Gospels then **Mark's Gospel** is the shortest.

There are at least 21 books that can be read in less than 15 minutes:

**Ruth** **Joel** **Obadiah** **Jonah** **Nahum** **Habakkuk** **Zephaniah**

**Haggai** **Malachi** **Philippians** **Colossians** **1 & 2 Thessalonians**

**2 Timothy** **Titus** **Philemon** **2 Peter** **2 & 3 John** **Jude**

The 150 **Psalms** are a great collection of poetry so you could compare a couple or more.

### What's a good group size?

Four to six people works well.  
More than eight is a bit too large for everyone to have a say.

### Who will lead the Book Club?

Rather than one person leads every session, why not rotate the leader at every meeting so that more people share the role.

### What's the style and tone?

Gentle and non-judgemental.  
A Bible Book Club is not focused on how much knowledge people have of the Scriptures - it's about enjoying reading and exploring the Bible together.



## Using the Lectio Divina Method.

This ancient Christian method allows the Bible to speak to the heart as well as the mind. It enables the Word of God to come alive today for all those who seek it; for the group to listen to where and how the Spirit is moving within them; and for their faith to deepen through this gentle and holy habit.

Here's a short guide to Lectio Divina and a video with Fr Bernard Murphy CFR:  
[www.godwhospeaks.uk/how-to-do-lectio-divina-holy-reading/](http://www.godwhospeaks.uk/how-to-do-lectio-divina-holy-reading/)  
[www.godwhospeaks.uk/lectio-divina-with-fr-bernard-murphy-cfr/](http://www.godwhospeaks.uk/lectio-divina-with-fr-bernard-murphy-cfr/)

### Scripture provides direction for our lives:

*'Your word is a lamp to my feet, a light for my path.'*

**Psalm 119.105.**

### When and where should meetings take place?

They can be in person in your parish hall or local school with permission from the priest or headteacher, or host them in a cafe or quiet pub, or if much easier host them on Zoom.

### How long should meetings be?

We suggest 50 – 60 minutes. If your group wishes to meet for longer and can do so in the venue you've chosen, then a 10-minute break halfway is recommended for all participants.

## How do you invite people to join your Bible Book Club?

Advertise your Club through your parish or school newsletters, social media and websites.

Ask your priest to announce the Bible Book Club in his notices at the end of Mass.

Put up an attractive poster on your parish or school noticeboards.

# What's the format?

Here's a suggested outline for each meeting:

- A** Start with a short opening prayer led by someone in the group or rotate each time.
- B** Read a short extract from the book of the Bible that's been pre-selected by the group.
- C** Allow a short time for reflection in silence – 5 minutes.
- D** Open the discussion in a friendly manner allowing people to share their reflections without any one person dominating, while not forcing people to speak if they prefer to stay quiet.
- E** Agree which book or part of a book of the Bible you will all read next.
- F** Agree the date, time and venue of the next meeting.
- G** End with a Closing Prayer led by someone in the group or rotate each time.

Some people like to bring or make notes so encourage members to use their preferred approach. And don't forget to keep track of the books of the Bible you read as a group.

Useful further information:

[www.godwhospeaks.uk/how-to-read-the-bible/](http://www.godwhospeaks.uk/how-to-read-the-bible/)  
[www.godwhospeaks.uk/about-the-bible/](http://www.godwhospeaks.uk/about-the-bible/)

Fun Bible Quiz:

[www.godwhospeaks.uk/bible-quiz-questions/](http://www.godwhospeaks.uk/bible-quiz-questions/)  
[www.godwhospeaks.uk/bible-quiz-answers/](http://www.godwhospeaks.uk/bible-quiz-answers/)



## The Bible was written to have a positive impact on us:

*For everything that was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that by perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we may continue to have hope.*

**Romans 15.4.**

