# Tips for effective Bible reading

1. Pick a consistent time and place to read. Typically, the earlier in the day, the better, but this may not fit everyone's schedule. Toward the end of the day, you may be too tired or other issues may come up and push your reading aside.

2. Find a place as free of distractions as possible. Turn off your phone for a bit. Get away from the TV. Unplug from your busy world.

3. Start with a simple prayer. Something along these lines is fine:

   "Lord, I thank you for this opportunity to enjoy the words you have written to me. Help me to hear your voice of love, of grace, of mercy, and forgiveness. May your word take root in my soul."

4. Pick a translation that you enjoy reading. There are literal translations that are very accurate, and paraphrased versions that you'll find more readable. You can access these online using your device. Go to biblegateway.com or blueletterbible.org. Apps are available to make this convenient.
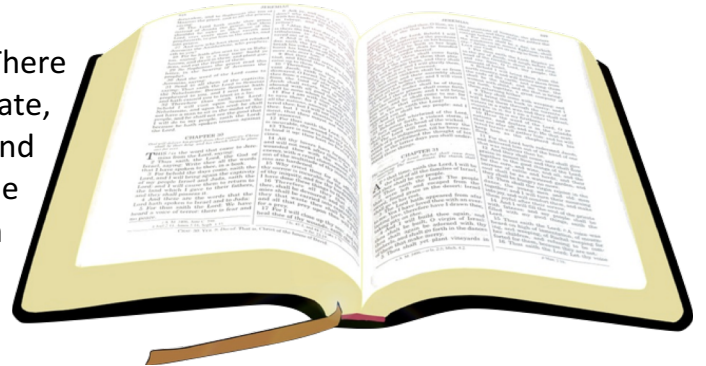
5. Consider using an audio Bible. That would allow you to complete your chapters during a commute, an exercise session, or during some alone time.

6. If it helps, read with someone. Two or more can gather for coffee and read together. This provides a great opportunity to fellowship and will allow you to discuss and better understand what you have read. You could even invite that unsaved friend who has been on your mind.

7. Feel free to write in your Bible or in a journal if you prefer. Respond to what God is speaking to you.

8. If you miss a day's reading, don't double up (or triple up) the next day; that will overwhelm you. Simply wait until the break between the semesters. Then you can catch up those missed days.