

WHY WRITE THE BIBLE?

Have you ever opened your Bible and thought “Where do I start?” We have!

We always struggled to be consistent in our Bible reading and, by talking to others, found that we were definitely not alone. After Bryony heard the author Lara Casey speak about the power of ‘Writing the Word’, she decided to give it a go.

There are so many benefits to writing by hand. It helps you retain information more easily, it engages your brain in a more active and full way and it often sparks creativity.

We know now that writing the Bible is powerful stuff. There’s something about seeing God’s Word written in our own handwriting that can speak more powerfully to us than just by reading it. It doesn’t have to be perfect and the results don’t have to look pretty. You can do it first thing in the morning, last thing at night or while you’re waiting for your tea to brew!

We are now reading and writing the Bible nearly every day, not because we are super holy or disciplined but simply because we are doing something simple! And it’s changing us.

Why not give it a go?

WHERE DO I START?

In our journals, each day starts with **Thanksgiving**. This is an opportunity to note down the things we are thankful to God for; they might be as small as a hot cup of coffee or as big as an answer to a prayer you’ve been praying for months.

Next we grab our Bibles (any translation will do), find the passage and **Write the Word**.

Then we take some time to **Reflect** on what we’ve written. We highlight words that stand out to us, ask the question “What does this show me about the Holy Spirit?” and often finish by thanking God for His Word.

Finally, we **Respond**. Sometimes this looks like us writing a prayer, or making a note of an action we want to take as a result of what we’ve read, or heard God say.

This practice can grow as much as you like; there is no blue-print so feel free to be flexible and get creative!

LET THERE BE LIGHT

ADVENT BIBLE WRITING PLAN

Over hundreds of years, Christians have used this season to reflect on God's gift to the world in Jesus, and to look forward to a future when He will restore everything. Much like Mary, we find ourselves in a period of longing for the promises of God to come into reality (Luke 1:38).

However, often during Advent life can take over; there are presents to wrap, cards to write, events to go to, parties to plan, meals to prepare, and all the shopping, shopping, shopping...

What if, this year, we commit to taking just five minutes each day to pause in the busyness and wait?

We've chosen passages from the Bible that speak to us about light. Each one should only take a few minutes to write out, and our prayer is that God will speak powerfully to you through them.

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| 1st Dec Matthew 4:15-16 | 13th Dec Psalm 36:7-9 |
| 2nd Dec John 1:1-5 | 14th Dec REST & REFLECT |
| 3rd Dec John 1:6-8 | 15th Dec John 3:19-21 |
| 4th Dec John 1:9-11 | 16th Dec John 8:12 |
| 5th Dec Ephesians 5:8-10 | 17th Dec John 12:44-46 |
| 6th Dec Ephesians 5:11-13 | 18th Dec 2 Corinthians 4:5-6 |
| 7th Dec REST & REFLECT | 19th Dec Matthew 6:22-23 |
| 8th Dec 1 John 1:5-7 | 20th Dec 1 Thessalonians 5:5-6 |
| 9th Dec 1 Corinthians 4:5 | 21st Dec REST & REFLECT |
| 10th Dec James 1:16-18 | 22nd Dec Matthew 5:14-16 |
| 11th Dec Colossians 1:9-10 | 23rd Dec Acts 13:47 |
| 12th Dec Colossians 1:11-12 | 24th Dec 1 Peter 2:9 |