

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!

Joel

BIBLE WRITING PLAN

Joel is one of the minor prophets; a group of writers in the Old Testament who wrote to warn the People of Israel about the coming judgement of God after their repeated disobedience to Him.

At first glance you may think the book of Joel is a confusing collection of poems about locusts, and you're right, it is! But it's also a wonderful book about how God longs to show mercy to those who own up to their sin and confess it. It also speaks of the hope we have that one day, God will defeat the evil that we see both in our world and inside of us, and bring His healing presence to make all things new.

We've included space for four rest days in this 31-day plan.

Day 1 1:1-4	Day 15 2:20-21
Day 2 1:5-7	Day 16 2:22-24
Day 3 1:8-10	Day 17 2:25-26
Day 4 1:11-12	Day 18 2:27-28
Day 5 1:13-15	Day 19 2:29-32
Day 6 1:16-18	Day 20 3:1-3
Day 7 1:19-20	Day 21 3:4-6
Day 8 2:1-2	Day 22 3:7-8
Day 9 2:3-5	Day 23 3:9-11
Day 10 2:6-9	Day 24 3:12-13
Day 11 2:10-11	Day 25 3:14-16
Day 12 2:12-14	Day 26 3:17-18
Day 13 2:15-17	Day 27 3:19-21
Day 14 2:18-19	