

Reflection on the prayer for Bible Sunday



Living and Loving God
We thank You for Your word,
Your living Word
so freely available to us.
May we never take it for granted,
but always see as it as a gift from You
to be treasured.
That through reading the Bible
we may come to know something more of You
and of each other.

We thank You for the sense of excitement and wonder
for each new discovery
and time of understanding.
We pray Your blessing on those difficult days
when we may not meet You in the words.
Guide us through, O Lord,

that in reading and sharing Your word
we may become closer to You and to each other.

Help us to always seek You in our discussions.
That our debates may be fair and truthful,
open and vibrant.
That we may hear and receive,
learn and give,
with each other and with You.

We thank You for all those who have taught us in the past,
and for those You will send to teach us into the future.

May we grow in our desire to read Your Scriptures
and in turn,
may we grow in true faith and in Your love.
May our Bibles and our hearts always be open!

Amen

Last Sunday we prayed this prayer in church for Bible Sunday.
It was a truly joyous service, not least because our dear sister
Jackie was baptised, and we celebrated with much music and
dancing. (If you haven't seen the service online yet, the link is:
<https://youtu.be/EtP3LwjzTIU>)

And we also gave thanks for God's word given to us in the
Bible – whatever translation that may be, and there are many!

People often ask me how to read the Bible, and I reply there is
no right or wrong way (except not reading it at all!) and we read
it differently throughout our lives, as experiences and learning
continue to shape us. There may be passages we simply don't
understand – or rather, just don't resonate with us at certain
times, that suddenly pour forth extraordinary insight when read
again, sometimes years later.

And one moment of understanding can lead on to another in a domino effect.

But don't get disheartened if you are reading and the words are just not "doing it" for you – pray with God about it, talk with friends about it – understanding comes from the most unexpected places sometimes and what joy there is when it does!

I hope this prayer encourages you to read with your Bible a bit more during these ongoing difficult times. I am praying this prayer all this week, to help me find a closer relationship with the texts (particularly those I find difficult or challenging) and to remind me that God is with me in my reading.

It's important to remember that the sacred Scriptures also shape and form us, and inform us, of how to live more closely in God's love and light, how to live and love each other. This special book contains an incredible toolkit that, coupled with prayer will give us guidance and everything we need to form a firm foundation in what it means to be a child of a loving and living God.