

**R**ead the

**B**ible

**T**ogether

Church hearing God the Father

Church knowing God the Son

Church united by God the Spirit

God's family, reaching out and welcoming in, because  
JESUS IS GOOD NEWS

## What is it?

RBT is a great way of reading the Bible in the way that God wants us to: together as a church, whole books at a time, to help us know Jesus and become like him.

RBT means everyone can be involved. Churches that run RBT find that 5 year olds and 95 year olds are able to learn from the Bible and encourage one another.

RBT gives direction to church life. Often it becomes clear that God is speaking to many people in church about a particular topic. Churches find themselves led by the Spirit through God's Word.

## How does it work?

RBT runs on a monthly cycle. Each month everyone reads a book from the Bible (e.g. John or Genesis) or several shorter books. Over three years we will read the whole Bible, then start again.

As you read you write down answers to questions – the same questions each month. These questions help us engage with the purpose of the Bible.

We then meet together to share our thoughts. Our Feedback meetings will usually be in the week *before* the First Sunday of each month. Morning meetings will be 10am on Wednesday. Evening meetings, on Zoom, are usually Tuesdays or Wednesdays.

You will find that your comments bring encouragement to others, and their answers will strengthen you.

Sharing your answers is very simple. For example, if you are reading Genesis and the question is “What did you learn about yourself?” you might reply “Chapter 1 verse 26: I am made in God's image”. You do not have to have clever answers – just share the Bible verse(s) that spoke to you, or come and listen to others.

The service on the First Sunday of each month will be shaped by our RBT reading and feedback meetings.

**If you only attend one mid-week meeting each month, make it this one! RBT works best when we have the whole church, reading the whole Bible, enjoying God together.**

# What help is there along the way?

## **Prefer to listen rather than read?**

- Using a mobile phone or computer you can listen to the Bible being read aloud. The 'YouVersion' Bible app from Life.Church (available for Android and Apple devices) and the website [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) both give options for listening. The "NIVUK" (New International Version, UK English) is our recommendation, read by David Suchet. Talk to Tim if you need help.
- If you would find it easier to use an audio CD then ask and we can make those available.

## **How much should you read each week?**

- Find the best way for you. Perhaps you need to spend 10 minutes each day. Or you might sit down one evening and read many chapters at once. Most months just two or three times of reading, an hour at a time, will be more than enough.

## **What if you don't finish the book?**

- Sometimes life is so busy and you run out of time. That's okay! Come along anyway to share what you have discovered.

## **You want to go deeper!**

- We will give suggestions about resources you can access for free if you want to dig deeper into that month's book of the Bible. But you do not need to use them. The Bible IS God speaking to you. It "makes wise the simple". The Spirit gave the Bible to everyone in church.
- Usually, the Sunday after RBT week (the First Sunday of the Month) will have a sermon from the book of the Bible we have been reading together.
- The Wednesday *after* RBT week will be "RBT+". This is a Bible study to dig deeper into the book.

## The Questions We Ask

God has told us why the Bible was given. The questions we ask each month reflect these reasons. We can be sure that these are the *right questions to ask and answer* because this is why the author, the Spirit, wrote this book. The Bible references show you the inspiration for these questions.

- What did you learn about Jesus? (*Luke 24:45-47*)
- What did you learn about yourself? (*James 1:23 & 2 Tim 3:16-17*)
- How were you equipped for works of service to build up the church? What did you learn about the maturity of the church and threats to her growth? (*Ephesians 4:11-16*)
- How were you corrected and rebuked; how do you feel you need to change to be the man/woman of God thoroughly equipped for every good work? (*2 Timothy 3:16-17*)
- What did you learn from the Scriptures that will help you endure and be encouraged? (*Romans 15:4*)
- How can you look like Jesus in the place that you have been sent by Jesus? (*John 17:17-18*)
- What have you learnt that helps you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind, and what has helped you love your neighbour as yourself? (*Matthew 22:37-40*)

You are not expected to write down *everything* that might be an answer to each question. This is not a test! These questions are like glasses, helping your vision focus on what is in front of you. Each month you will be given a sheet of paper with these questions. Write down the truths and verses that speak to you.