



# The Prayer Room

**Brought to you by the Good News Bearers**  
March 30 – April 5, 2008

## **LISTEN TO GOD IN THE BIBLE**

**HOW, PRAY TELL?** There are as many ways to read the Bible as there are people to read it. Whether you and the Bible have just met or you are trying to rebuild an old relationship, you need to find the way that works best for you. That can be a daunting task. We pray that the following thoughts will help you get started.

Whichever way you choose, there are four things you will need:

**A Good Attitude** – How you approach your reading of the Bible does matter. Ask yourself why you are reading the Bible. Do you want it to prove what you already believe, say what you want it to say? Are you reading it from a sense of fear or obligation? Do you think God will love you more if you do this? Or is it because you love God's Word and yearn to hear what he has to say? Is it a thirst to know God better? (John 14:8-11) Are you searching for hope (Romans 15:4), or seeking to grow in your Christian faith? (Acts 20:32) Approach it with your heart and mind open to the Holy Spirit.

**Prayer** – The best intentions, diligence and even hard work are not enough when we set out to read and study God's Word. Prayer is a vital part of the process. We need to pray for the presence and activity of the Holy Spirit within us. For it is the same Spirit who inspired the original writers and preserves God's Word through centuries on end who can now open our hearts and minds, give us wisdom and understanding, and give life to the words of Scripture.

**Regular Reading** – Try to read your Bible at least once each day. If you can set aside a particular reading/study time, by all means do so. But making time for it, reading on a regular basis, sticking to it, is more important than keeping a rigid schedule.

**An Orderly Way of Reading and Studying** – When you get a letter from a friend or loved one, do you read only a few sentences here and there? No, because it wouldn't make sense to you, and you want to get the whole message. The same thing holds true for reading God's message. Reading a little bit from Matthew, a story from Judges, a verse or two from Genesis, and then a chapter of Revelation will not give you a clear understanding of God's Word. That can come only from reading and studying the Bible in an orderly manner.

**Tune in to next "The Prayer Room" next week as we explore some of the different ways to read and study the Bible.**

**AΩ**

Please take this copy of The Prayer Room with you and join us in praying this prayer during the coming week.

**Dear Lord, grant me willing ears and a patient, steadfast will as I listen for your voice. I confess to you that I have too often put other things ahead of reading the Bible. Inspire me and my brothers and sisters in Christ to read your Scriptures and meditate on them.**

**Give all of us a clear understanding of what we need, so that we can practice what we learn from you. Help us always to approach and read your Word prayerfully. Make your words channels of grace within our hearts. Amen.**