



# The Prayer Room

**Brought to you by the Good News Bearers**  
May 11-17, 2008

We've talked a lot about the Bible here lately. For we know that prayer is CONVERSATION with God, and we can often hear God's part of our conversation by

## **Listening to God in the Bible**

We've touched on ways to read the NEW Testament. Now we come to the "OLD" Testament.

Many people ask, "HOW should we read the Old Testament?" Before we tackle that, let's consider a question many other people ask, "SHOULD we read the Old Testament?"

**Yes! Yes! Yes! It's a MUST read.**

**Next question: WHY should I read the Old Testament?**

"It's so long! It's sometimes hard, dry reading. I get bogged down as soon as I hit Leviticus."

Yes, it is long. **It's two-thirds of the Bible!** Why would you want to skip two thirds of God's written word?

**Now, lets talk about why we SHOULD read it.**

The Old Testament was and still is the Hebrew Bible, the "Scriptures" Jesus and others talk about in the New Testament. **It is the Bible that Jesus read.** He probably knew it practically by heart. And he wants us to read it and know it.

**The Old Testament contains Jesus' prayer book (Psalms)**

**The Old Testament bears witness to Jesus (John 5:39)**

**It "points forward" to Jesus (Luke 24:27). The Old Testament prophesied Jesus and is fulfilled in him.**

**We need it to understand Jesus and the world Jesus lived in.**

**It is the prologue to the New Testament.** We need both to understand both. We would miss the significance of Matthew's genealogy of Jesus in chapter 1 of his Gospel if we didn't know the Old Testament characters it talks about.

**The God of the Old and New Testaments are the same God.** Yahweh (Jehovah) of the Old Testament is the 'Father' of Jesus, the one Jesus called "Abba (Daddy)"

**The Old Testament helps us to understand the nature of God. God reveals himself to us in the Bible, both parts..**

**The two Testaments are one continuous narrative, unified.**

There's much, much more, but we don't have the space for it. We hope and pray that this will help you to read and to value this precious part of the Bible. Next week, we hope to share some thoughts on HOW we can read the Old Testament.

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**Please pray with us for our spiritual life at St. John's this week by including the following in your prayers:**

**Dear Abba, Father, I long to hear the sound of your voice. Yet I am weak and often fail to listen as I should, especially in reading your written Word.**

**Please forgive me, and by your Spirit, build within me and my brothers and sisters here at St. John's a new will and the courage to read and understand ALL that you have revealed to us.**

**Amen!**