

Resources to use

Anglican worship demonstrates that we hold the Scriptures as essential to the life of the church. Our liturgical actions (the elevation of the Bible, the reading from the centre of our worship space, and our response “Praise to you, our Lord Jesus Christ”) remind us that, as Christians, the Scriptures are to be at the very centre of our lives for they are the place where we can encounter and be transformed by the Lord Jesus Christ. We gather not to worship a book but to worship the Risen Lord Jesus, who by his Spirit encounters his people clothed in literature.

The Bible is the *written* Word of God, yet it is not something static and frozen that is to be simply picked apart and analysed, it is the living and dynamic truth that proceeds from the mouth of God and has the power to confront us with the reality of God as He personally addresses us and our circumstances.

The Bible’s power doesn’t lie in its particular wording but in the Holy Spirit who chooses to fill the words of Scripture with eternal meaning when read with faith. It is the raw material that the Spirit uses to form disciples: renovating our hearts and minds to be more Christ-like.

Each of us can meet with the Risen Lord in the pages of Holy Scripture!

Yes, the Bible can seem strange and foreign, so here are some resources to help you get the most out of your own Bible reading:

1. A helpful introductory book on understanding the Bible -

Gordon D. Fee & Douglas Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All It’s Worth*

2. A great book to help you understand how the Old and New Testaments fit together -

Graeme Goldsworthy, *According to Plan: The Unfolding Revelation of God in the Bible*

3. A Bible dictionary can help you with places and people -

I. H. Marshall, et al, *New Bible Dictionary*

4. Scripture Union publishes some great reading notes -

www.scriptureunion.org.au

5. A very useful online resource (with free Bible dictionaries and commentaries) -

www.biblegateway.com