

The Bible in private devotion

## (a) Individual reading

Many Christians feel that reading the Bible regularly at home helps them to understand more about God and the ways in which He wants them to live their lives. Christians often read the Bible slowly so that the meaning becomes clearer. Often a Bible passage can guide or help people in their daily lives. The Gideons donate Bibles to hospitals, hotels and other places so that those who are sick, lonely or troubled can find comfort and support from this sacred text. (b) Reading in groups

Christians often come together in small groups to study the Bible. This enables them to share what they learn with each other.

The Bible in public worship and in ceremonies

- (a) Many churches show great respect for the Gospels during a service in church. This can be seem when:
  - The Gospel is carried to the middle of the congregation, surrounded by a cross-bearer and candle-holders.
  - The Gospel is read only by a priest who makes the sign of the cross.
    - People remain standing during the reading.

(In some churches the Bible reading takes place from the pulpit)



(b) Passages from the Bible are often used during public ceremonies such as marriages, christenings and funerals.

## What is your experience of the Bible?

You may have read parts of it yourself or listened to passages read in school or in church. Think about a particular story in the Bible that you have read or heard. Explain in one paragraph what the story is about and then write a few sentences which will help the reader to understand why you have remembered this particular passage and why you think it is important to many Christians.