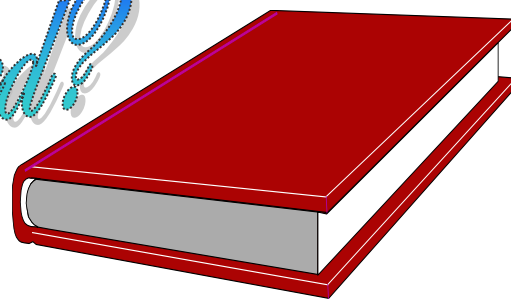


How is the Bible used?



Millions of Bibles, in many languages, are printed every year. They are used around the world by individuals and groups, in private and in public.

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 seen 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)

