The liturgical year is, of course, an excellent guide to reading the Bible. If you read the appointed lessons for each day in the Daily Office, you will have read the majority of the Bible over a two year period. If you choose this programmed reading as your method of Bible study, however, be aware that you will need to set aside several hours each day for the kind of thorough examination we are discussing here. For devotional reading, the Daily Office is unequaled. As a guide to detailed study, it may be rather overwhelming!

One way of paring this down to a manageable load may be to select a portion of the assigned readings for further study. For example, if the Gospel readings are from John, make the Gospel of John the focus of your more intense study. That way neither the catholic nor the evangelical sides of our Anglican personality are offended. (See pages 933–1001)

If you wish to study the Bible in depth and as an entity apart from its liturgical context, consider the following reading program for beginners suggested by R.C. Sproul. It provides an overview of the Old and New Testaments while avoiding those obscure and—dare I say it?—somewhat tedious passages of Levitical law. The pace of your study and the detail with which you examine the scriptures is up to you.

Read the Old Testament in this order:

• Genesis	History of Creation, Fall, and Covenant in Patriarchal history
• Exodus	History of Israel's liberation and formation as people of God
• Joshua	History of military conquest of promised land
• 1 Samuel	History of emerging monarchy with Samuel, Saul, and David
• 2 Samuel	The reign of David, golden age of Israel
• 1 Kings	History of Solomon and the division of the kingdom
• 2 Kings	History of the fall of Israel and beginnings of the prophets
• Ezra	History of the return from exile
• Nehemiah	History of restoration of Jerusalem

Then read:

• Amos and Hosea	Examples of Minor Prophets
• Jeremiah	Example of Major Prophets
• Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon	Examples of Wisdom Literature
• Psalms and Proverbs	Examples of Hebrew poetry

Knowing Scripture R.C. Sproul

How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth Gordon Fee & Douglas Stuart

Sproul's overview of the New Testament looks like this:

- Gospel of Luke — Life and teaching of Jesus
- Acts — History of early Church
- Ephesians — Introduction to teaching of Paul
- 1 Corinthians — Teaching in the life of the Church
- 1 Peter — Introduction to Peter
- 1 Timothy — Introduction to Pastoral Epistles
- Hebrews — Theology of Christ
- Romans — Paul's theology

A word about the Apocrypha:

Q. What is the Apocrypha?

A. The Apocrypha is a collection of additional books written by people of the Old Covenant, and used in the Christian Church. (BCP, p. 853)

The traditional attitude of Anglicans toward these "additional books" was articulated in 1801: "And the other books (as Hierome saith) the Church doth read for example of life and instruction of manners; but yet doth it not apply them to establish any doctrine...." (BCP, p. 868)

Translations of the Bible

The following are translations—and one paraphrase (marked *)—that are officially recognized by the Episcopal Church as acceptable for use during the liturgy:

King James Version/Authorized Version (KJV/AV)
New King James Version (NKJV)
Revised Standard Version (RSV)
New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)
New International Version (NIV)
New English Bible (NEB)
Revised English Bible (REB)
The Jerusalem Bible (JB)
The New Jerusalem Bible (NJB)
The Good News Bible/Today's English Version (GNB/TEV)*

Below is a chart illustrating where several popular translations fall in the spectrum ranging from the most literal rendering through the most freely paraphrased. "Dynamic equivalence" indicates the attempt to translate words, idioms, and grammatical constructions of the original language into precise equivalents in the receptor (English) language.

Literal ——— Dynamic Equivalence ——— Free

KJV	RSV	NRSV	NIV	GNB	Phillips	LB
NASB			NAB	JB		
			NEB			