

# QTC557. How to make the Bible your 'hobby' - Part 3. 06 February 2025

---

How to make the Bible your 'hobby'. Part 3 - Bible Journalling | Malcolm Cox | Quiet Time Coaching Episode 557

## Introduction

In this series, we are exploring how approaching our Bible study as a hobby can make all the difference. Today we are looking at Bible journalling.

---

### 1. Write Down What God Reveals

I am currently reading [David Hoffbrand's 52 Sabbaths](#). This book offers practical insights on how embracing a rhythm of rest can deepen our relationship with God. 52 weekly reflections encourage readers to rediscover the Sabbath as a gift, fostering spiritual renewal, peace, and a closer walk with God.

Once a week, I proceed as follows:

1. Read the chapter, contemplate the Scriptures and pray about anything that arises for me.
2. Open my Notes software and create a note for that day's reading.
3. Note down the main Scripture(s)
4. Add any quotes from the chapter that stood out
5. Add my reflections in my own words. Some of those are about the text, and some are about myself.

**Tips:** Set a reminder; use software you are comfortable with; make the journaling process as simple as possible; use voice memos if you are not in a conducive place to writing; and use a journaling Bible. At the bottom of this article, you'll find a list of suggestions for journaling Bibles.

---

### 2. Be creative

Journalling does not have to involve writing paragraphs exclusively. Try drawing pictures, writing your thoughts as song lyrics, composing a poem, writing a letter to someone about what you have read, writing a blog article about what you have read (send it to me, and I might publish it for you!), making a YouTube short, creating a picture on [Stencil](#) or [Canva](#) and posting it on Instagram.

**Tips:** [https://thegraphicsfairy.com/bible-art-journaling-a-beginners-guide/?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://thegraphicsfairy.com/bible-art-journaling-a-beginners-guide/?utm_source=chatgpt.com); <https://rebekahrjones.com/bible-art-journaling-challenge/>;  
<https://www.doodlingfaith.co.uk/>

---

## Question

How do you feel about journalling your Bible study? In other words, not just making notes on the text, but on your response to the text.

---

## Suggestions

Try it for a week. Let me know how it goes. If you're not comfortable or familiar with these ideas, at least give it a go and see what the Spirit reveals.

---

## Conclusion

Next week, I will offer some further inspiration to help you make the Bible your hobby.

Your brother, Malcolm

---

Please add your comments on this week's topic. We learn best when we learn in community.

Do you have a question about teaching the Bible? Is it theological, technical, or practical? Please send me your questions or suggestions. Here's the email: [malcolm@malcolmcox.org](mailto:malcolm@malcolmcox.org).

If you'd like a copy of my free eBook on spiritual disciplines, "How God Grows His People", sign up at my website: <http://www.malcolmcox.org>.

Please pass the link on, subscribe, and leave a review.

Consider joining us at [AIM](http://aim.moodlecloud.com/) UK & Ireland for stimulating and faith-building teaching: <https://aim.moodlecloud.com/>.

---

Music used in this recording: "Carpe Diem" Kevin MacLeod (incompetech.com). Licensed under Creative Commons: By Attribution 4.0 License. <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Images from Stencil: <https://getstencil.com/>

---

By the way, this series was inspired by John Miles' video, which can be viewed at [https://youtu.be/JcIl0RcUXo0?si=\\_d5QhLwOqk2k9cwG](https://youtu.be/JcIl0RcUXo0?si=_d5QhLwOqk2k9cwG).

---

Here are some Bible editions designed explicitly for journaling:

## 1. **ESV Journaling Bible**

- Format: Wide margins with lines for notes.
- Features:
  - Durable covers (leather, cloth over board, or hardcover options).
  - Cream-coloured paper for ease of writing.
- Best for: Fans of the English Standard Version who want to record thoughts, prayers, or artwork.

## 2. **NIV Journal the Word Bible**

- Format: Wide, lightly lined margins.
- Features:
  - Single-column text for easier reading and note-taking.
  - Available in various bindings (hardcover, leather, or softcover).
- Best for: Those who prefer the New International Version translation.

## 3. **CSB (Christian Standard Bible) Note-taking Bible**

- Format: Generous margins for journaling and reflections.
- Features:
  - Beautifully designed covers and thick pages to minimise bleed-through.
  - Promotes a modern, readable translation.
- Best for: A balance between modern English and note-friendly design.

## 4. **NRSV Artisan Journaling Edition**

- Format: Wide margins with ample space for notes or artwork.
- Features:
  - Premium paper designed for pen and pencil journaling.
  - Decorative cover designs.
- Best for: Lovers of the NRSV who enjoy creative journaling.

## 5. **KJV Journal the Word Bible**

- Format: Wide, ruled margins for personal study notes or prayers.
- Features:

- Timeless King James text paired with modern journaling space.
- Durable, elegant bindings.
- Best for: Those who appreciate the poetic beauty of the KJV.

## 6. The Inspire Bible (NLT)

- Format: Designed specifically for creative journaling and colouring.
- Features:
  - Pre-drawn illustrations and verses to colour.
  - Space for personal doodles, prayers, or notes.
- Best for: Artistic individuals or those who enjoy expressing faith through creativity.

## 7. Interleaved Journaling Bibles

- Example: **ESV Interleaved Edition**
- Format: Every other page is blank for maximum note-taking or artwork.
- Features:
  - Ideal for those who want extra space to record deep thoughts or detailed studies.
- Best for: Deep study and extensive journaling.