



HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

“Katie Lu” is straining to read the Bible in this video commercial, until she receives from her husband, “Winkie,” a brand new “Hermeneuti-Cool” Bible reading glass. (*Hermeneutics* is the word theologians use for the process of interpreting religious writings.) We discover that Winkie used a larger version of the same device to understand the Bible and begin the Reformation. In fact, it was in long and careful study of the Bible that the real Martin Luther came to understand the need for Reformation some 500 years ago.

1. The Bible is available today in many versions, styles, and sizes. It is seldom the size of the print that causes difficulty. What do you find difficult about understanding the Bible?
2. The American humorist, Mark Twain, is purported to have said, “It ain’t those parts of the Bible that I can’t understand that bother me, it’s the parts that I do understand.” What parts of the Bible trouble you most?
3. Most people have difficulty reading the Bible because they are constantly looking for hidden, spiritual meanings. Luther taught that straightforward interpretation is best. What tools for interpreting the Bible would you find most helpful to your understanding?
4. Luther also taught that our most productive study of the Bible takes place in the company of other Christians who can teach and correct one another. With whom do you study the Bible?