I. Private reading of Scripture: Why?

    A. The Bible is useful! (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 119:9, 18-19, 44-45, 68, 105, etc.)
    B. Means of grace (*Westminster Larger Catechism* questions 154-157)
    C. God speaks through the Scriptures
        i. the primary way God speaks to his people is using words he has already spoken
        ii. private reading is our primary occasion for meditation
    D. Private reading is the appropriate response to public reading

II. How to be a daily Bible reader

    A. Get a Bible
        i. best balanced translations: KJV/NKJV, ESV, NASB, NIV
        ii. extras: maps, cross-references, study notes, in-depth articles, Bible atlas
        iii. *ESV Study Bible, NIV Study Bible, NASB Study Bible, Reformation Study Bible*
        iv. audio Bible
    B. Carve out time in the day
    C. Carve out space – inside or outside, somewhere private and quiet (Matthew 6:6)
    D. Make a plan – or use somebody else's. Recommended:
        i. The Robert Murray M'Cheyne's plan. Covers the OT once, the NT and Psalms
          twice, each year.
          a) http://hippocampusextensions.com/mcheyneplan/
        ii. The Discipleship Journal Bible Reading Plan. Through the Bible 1x in the year,
          easily scaleable (to two years or four years) if that's too much. 25 readings per
          month leaving you 3-6 "catch up days" or Sundays off if you need them.
          a) http://www.navpress.com/uploadedFiles/15074%20BRP.dj.pdf
    E. Don't freak out if you haven't kept your plan perfectly (Philippians 3:13-14)
    F. Get accountable to someone
    G. What to do when you read (see *Westminster Large Catechism* question 157)
        i. if you get breadth, you will get depth
        ii. you want to read with understanding
        iii. simple practical question: "What does that remind me of?"
        iv. use tools: Bible software, online tools (esp. biblegateway.com), study Bible, etc.
        v. apply it: "Where is Christ, where are God's people, where am I in this text?"

III. Why, revisited

    A. The scriptures are about Jesus Christ (John 5:39; Luke 24)
    B. In reading the scriptures, you will come to know Jesus Christ