

10 Ways to Read the Bible

1- Prayerfully

- Pray for eyes to see and ears to hear
- Pray for focus and alertness to see and savor all God has for you
- Pray the Scriptures when appropriate

2- Repeatedly

- Read it silently
- Read it out loud
- Read in different translations
- Listen to it read
- Memorize parts or all of it to meditate on it through the day

3- Analytically

- **Who:** does it involve, is it for, is it from?
- **What:** are the events, is happening, is the argument, is the point, difference does it make?
- **Where:** was it written, is it taking place, are the readers when they get it?
- **When:** did it take place, was it written?
- **Why:** is it included, is it placed here, does it follow and precede?

4- Purposefully

Be attentive to the grammar:

- **Verbs-** Action words
- **Subject-** thing/person acting or acted upon
- **Modifiers-** descriptive words (adjectives or adverbs)
- **Prepositions-** where the action is taking place (in, upon, through)
- **Connectives-** (and, but, therefore)
- **Imperatives** (commands to obey) **and Indicatives** (statements of fact)

Be attentive to the Structure:

- **Biographical-** builds on key persons
- **Geographical-** builds around the location
- **Historical-** builds around key events in history
- **Chronological-** builds on sequence of happenings
- **Ideological-** builds around ideas or concepts
- **Metaphorical-** a representative or symbolism of something else
- **Typological-** something that is a type of something else; the type points to the antitype

5- Thoughtfully

- What investigative questions can you ask to understand it more?
- What do your Bible study notes or a good Bible commentary say about it?

6- Patiently

- Be patient with the text, and be patient with yourself in your understanding of it

7- Telescopically

- Zoom in and zoom out
- Evaluate the parts in relation to the context of the whole chapter, the book, the entire Bible

8- Submissively

- Submit your will and perspective to God's will and perspective

9- Obediently

- What is God's word revealing you are to do/not do?

10- Worshipfully

- What does it reveal about God and the gospel that causes you to enjoy and worship Him?

PREPARE: A Seven-Step Guide for Personal Bible Study

- **P** “PRAY”

Before reading God’s word, we should pray for His guidance and a right focus. We should ask God for the Holy Spirit to reveal to us through Scripture the truths He wants us to understand. Your Bible study should not be just for intellectual growth but relational depth with God. Prayer is how you talk to God; reading His word is how He talks to you. Enjoy this time you get to spend together in this amazing way.

“Then he opened their minds to understand these many Scriptures.” -**Luke 24:45**

- **R** “READ”

We must not read to just read or for more knowledge; instead, we must read to be transformed and renewed.

“This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is changing lives everywhere, just as it changed yours that very first day you heard and understood the truth about God’s great kindness to sinners.” - **Colossians 1:6**

- **E** “EXAMINE”

When you read, examine the Scripture! Examine what key phrases or words jump out at you and relate or apply to your life. Examine what is being shown or taught! Take time to read commentaries and/or the study breakdown in your Bible.

- **P** “PONDER”

Stop and focus on God! Listen to what He is revealing to you in His word! Ponder what the Holy Spirit is leading you to understand or see through this passage. Be quiet.

“Study this Book of the Law continually. Meditate on it day and night so you may be sure to obey all that is written in it. Only then will you succeed.” - **Joshua 1:8**

- **A** “ACCOUNT”

This is key! Get a journal and simply take **account** of what God is showing you. Write it out: a verse that really sticks out, an area you need to work on, take notes of what you are learning, questions you want to get answered, etc. Write out prayers to God as you interact with Him during your quiet time.

“I will write down all these things as a testimony of what the LORD will do ...” - **Isaiah 8:16**

- **R** “REMEMBER”

There is so much good Scripture that is totally worth memorizing. Write down the verse you want to memorize in your journal and/or on your mobile device so you can meditate on it later.

“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you” -**Psalms 119:11**

- **E** “ENGAGE”

We have an awesome responsibility to live out what we have come to know as truth. Put it to action! Don’t keep to yourself all the great things God is teaching you and encouraging you in. Share with others the things God is showing you through His word, and by doing so, it will encourage others to seek out and value God’s word.

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” - **James 1:22**