

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

2 Timothy 3:15-17: You have known the Holy Scriptures since infancy, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

1st Pray. *Dear God, please calm my spirit so that I may see and learn what your Living Word has for me today. Please open my mind and my heart to the truth and power of your word. Thank you. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

2nd Set a time and a quiet place for daily Bible reading & reflection.

3rd Use a small notebook or composition book.

OBSERVATION: What does the passage say? Read quickly for content. Read again carefully, underlining key words and phrases.

INTERPRETATION: What does the passage mean? Ask God to give you understanding of the passage. Consult a dictionary or modern translation for the precise meaning of the words. Ask: WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE? WHY? HOW?

APPLICATION: Ask yourself, WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN TO ME AND HOW CAN I APPLY IT TO MY LIFE?

Attitudes to be changed?

Actions to take or avoid?

Promises to claim?

Sins to confess or give-up?

Examples to follow? Other personal applications?

SOME PRACTICAL AND EASY BIBLE READING HELPS:

ALWAYS BEGIN WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER: *Dear God please help me to focus. Please help me to see what You may have in store for me today. Thank you. AMEN.*

METHOD #1--- SPACEPETS

IS THERE A **SIN** TO CONFESS?

IS THERE A **PROMISE** TO CLAIM?

IS THERE AN **ATTITUDE** TO CHANGE?

IS THERE A **COMMAND** TO OBEY?

IS THERE AN **EXAMPLE** TO FOLLOW?

IS THERE A **PRAYER** TO PRAY?

IS THERE AN **ERROR** TO AVOID?

IS THERE A **TRUTH** TO BELIEVE?

IS THERE **SOMETHING TO PRAISE** GOD ABOUT?

METHOD #2 --- S.O.A.P.

S SCRIPTURE

O OBSERVE - who - what - where-when - how

A APPLY - so what?

P PRAY

What does this passage tell us about:

- God
- Humankind
- Relativity

METHOD #3 ---SUMMARIZE or PARAPHRASE

Summarize each paragraph into your own words.

Paraphrase or reword the text into your own words. Put emphasis upon those portions that seem to jump out at you or seem to have special significance to you.

METHOD #4 ---- ASK THE "BASIC" QUESTIONS

WHO – WHO ARE THE CHARACTERS AND WHO IS THE AUDIENCE? WHO IS TALKING OR ACTING? WHO IS LISTENING & RESPONDING?

WHAT—WHAT IS HAPPENING? WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PRECEDING SECTION OF TEXT? WHAT HAPPENED BECAUSE OF TODAY'S TEXT?

WHEN – WHEN IN THE SPAN OF HISTORY? BEFORE CHRIST OR AFTER CHRIST? EARLY IN JESUS' MINISTRY OR CLOSER TO THE CRUCIFIXION? BEFORE THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM OR AFTER? BEFORE NERO OR CALIGULA? OR AFTER? BEFORE ABRAHAM OR AFTER? BEFORE DAVID OR AFTER?

WHERE – WHAT COUNTRY? WHAT CONTINENT? JEWISH/JUDEA? OR SOMEWHERE ELSE

HOW – IS THERE A PRESCRIPTION OR A DIRECTION TO FOLLOW OR TO AVOID?

AND THEN --- **SO WHAT?** WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO ME? TO MY FAMILY? TO MY CHURCH? TO MY COMMUNITY? HOW MIGHT THIS PASSAGE APPLY TO ME? WHAT THOUGHT OR APPLICATION HAS GOD PUT INTO MY HEART?

HOW TO PRAY

Hebrews 4:16: Let us approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Psalms 27:8 My heart says of you, "Seek his face!" Your face, God I will seek.

Psalms 62:8 Trust in him at all time; pour out your heart to him, for God is our refuge.

Proverbs 15:8 ... the prayer of the upright pleases God.

Romans 8:26-27 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit intercedes for us, through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

USE A SMALL NOTEBOOK/COMPOSITION BOOK:

1. Make a list of people and situations you want to remember daily in prayer. Add special concerns –
2. Pray for outcomes that you might imagine.
3. Write a list of things for which you will praise and thank God.
4. Write the date, prayer request, and Scripture that you may claim or reference in terms of the prayer request or need.
5. You may want to write your prayers ... it helps to slow your mind and to reflect upon the person, the concern, and how the Holy Spirit may intercede.
6. Record answers or reflections as they occur.

A ADORATION – Affirming God's place in the world and in your life

C CONFESSION – Keep a short list of wrongs against God, yourself, and others

T THANKSGIVING – Count your blessings & recognize past acts of God's goodness

S SUPPLICATIONS/NEEDS – share your heart and your deepest prayer, hurts, and dreams.