

Icebreaker:

What's one of my favorite Bible verses?

The Study:

The Lord has given his people an incredible gift through which we might enjoy his presence, experience his power, and know his leading. It's nothing dramatic. No angel will sing over you as you do it (though they're probably nearby.) It involves sitting yourself down, quieting your heart, then opening up a book – *the Book* – on your lap, or on your computer, then reading. But how do we do it well? This study gives some pointers.



1. Read Psalm 19:7-11. Identify as many of the benefits of Bible reading that the verses describe as you can. If you've experienced one of these benefits personally, describe it.

In Sunday's teaching, we gave practical ideas for how to read the Bible for yourself. We boiled it down to 4 concrete steps.

Reading

2. What do you find challenging about reading the Bible in general, or the thought that it should become a daily habit?

3. Why do you think the goal should be to make this a daily habit?
Read Joshua 1:8 and Psalm 1:1-3.

4. Reading devotionals is good, but this shouldn't become a substitute for reading the Bible. Reading the Bible "topically" is good, but most of the time we should read the Bible a book at a time. Why to both?

Reflecting

Reflection involves doing 3 things in succession.

- *Observation*, where we ask: *What do you see?*
- *Interpretation*, where we ask: *What does it mean?*
- *Application*, where we ask: *What should I do about it?*

5. We'll practice doing this together in a moment, but why are each of these three steps important to the process of studying Scripture? What happens if you rush to "application" without first taking time for "observation" and "interpretation"?

Writing

6. Read Habakkuk 2:1-2. Why do you think it's important to write down lessons and truths that the Lord is teaching you?

Responding

7. Read James 2:22-25. This is where the Spirit of God takes the Word of God and transforms us into sons and daughters of why. Why?

Now as a group, take some time to do this work together. Choose any of the following passages, and practice the 3-Step Method.

*Luke 9:10-17 * Philippians 4:4-7 * Psalm 121*

The 3-Step Bible Study Method



Step One: Observation ~ *What do I see?*

Scripture Text:

Specific Observations (Write at least ten!):

Step Two: Interpretation ~ *What does it mean?*

Ask questions! – *What was the author saying to his original readers? Is there anything difficult to understand? What would I like to know more about? Can the passage be interpreted in different ways?*

Step Three: Application ~ *What should I do about it?*

What timeless principles does the passage teach?

What truths does this passage teach me about God?

What do I sense the Lord wants me to do in response?

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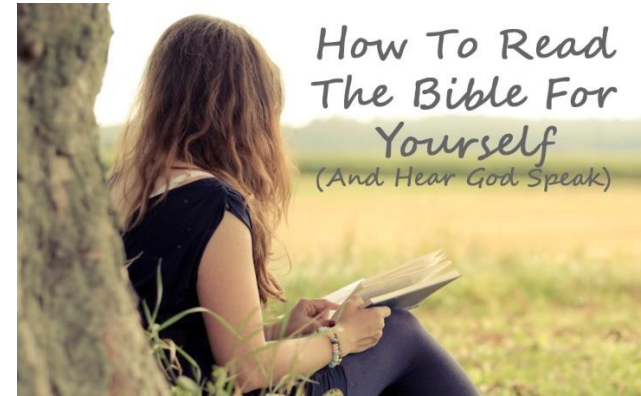
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