

## How do I read the Bible?

There's not a single "right" way to read the Bible. However, there are useful methods that can help you engage God's Word.

Writing is optional, but it does cause us to slow down our thoughts and engage more deeply, so consider taking a few notes.

And finally, take what's most helpful and use it to make reading the Bible meaningful for you. Remember that we don't just read the Bible for more knowledge. *God has gifted us his Word to transform us and reorient our lives to Christ.*

***"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."***

*Psalm 119:105*

## REAP Method

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**Read** | *What does the text say?*

Read the passage a few times and ask questions like: **who, what, when** and **where?** The goal here is to slow down and take notice of things that catch your attention or seem important.

**Examine** | *What does the text mean?*

Ask questions like: **why** and **how?** Consider what the author was trying to communicate with the **original audience**. Take note of what you can **learn about God** and what you can **learn about people** through the passage. Pay attention to how different verses may connect or relate.

**Apply** | *How should the text change me?*

Ask yourself "**How should the text change me?**" or "**What would it look like to apply what I just read?**" The goal here is to let God's Word inform and direct our lives. These questions point us toward self-reflection, but an important component is also sharing what we've learned with others.

**Pray** | *How can I pray the text back to God?*

Learn to pray the Bible. Let what you've learned direct what you ask. Let God's Word shape your attitude and thoughts.