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**How to study the bible**

Tools you will need: (bible, study bible, commentary, bible dictionary)

1. **Pray** & **Journal** your bible study
2. Find a good location to study (in public or seclusion, with music, study partner)
3. Remove distractions (cancel out noise, turn off notifications)
4. Listen to audio bible
5. Slow down & change your expectations (revelation takes time for some biblical text)

* Bible study is not bible reading
* Bible reading: go through text at a nice rate of speed

Bible study: you pause, ask questions about text, find Gods meaning in the text, why does the writer write

* Bible reading is like raking; you only get leaves
* Bible study is digging, hard work, get dirty, find diamonds, ask questions
* Bible study will have you look for: (word, phrase)

1. **Scripture**
2. **Observation**

* What does the text say? What is the time of day?
* When did or will event take place?
* Who is speaking? Who is the main character?
* What is the town or city name? What is geographical region?
* What words are repeated?
* Ask these four W’s: Who, Where, What, When ….. and How
* Stay curious and keep seeking

1. **Interpretation**

* What does the passage of scripture mean
* What is the significance of the scripture
* What about this scripture is bothering you? (*Create questions around this*)
* Based on your observation develop some questions

“Why did Jesus say this?”

“What was the culture of this day?”

* Questions for good interpretation:

Is it interesting?

Does it promote discussion

1. **Application**

* Is there a simple truth in the scripture – “promise, command”
* What is the scripture text saying to us today
* How do I/we respond to text
* How will you be different based on what you read today?
* Do I allow scripture to change me?

1. **Prayer**

* Pray over the scripture you have read
* Ask God to help you apply what you have read
* Ask God to remind you throughout your day what you must learn from this scripture
* Your prayer may be short or long; just remember its yours