

BASIC BIBLE STUDY PRACTICES

1. **Pick a book of the Bible** to study. You may also want to pick a person or topic to study or choose a specific reading plan like “reading through the Bible in a year,” available online or on Bible apps.

2. **Schedule a consistent time and location to study without distractions.** Make it your goal to keep this schedule. Remove distractions. Learn to be okay with a Bible, a notepad, yourself and God.

3. **Get Bible study resources:**

- The ***ESV Study Bible*** is an excellent study Bible—we highly recommend getting this resource in print or digital format. Read the introductory commentary about the book of the Bible you are studying to help understand the outline, background, author, theme, context and setting. Look at the commentary notes as you study verse-by-verse.
- **“Bible Project” videos**—available on the Bible Project app, the YouVersion Bible app and the website bibleproject.com—offer multiple video series, including the **“Book Overview” series** to summarize each book of the Bible and the **“How To Read the Bible” series**, which explains biblical literary genres. These videos are extremely helpful to give literary understanding and context.
- Some helpful books to understand the Bible and methods to study it are: **“30 Days To Understanding the Bible”** by Max Anders and **“How To Read the Bible for All Its Worth”** by Gordon D. Fee.

4. **Read one chapter at a time:**

- Pray a simple prayer before reading, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you into all truth (Cf. John 14:26).
- Highlight verses that capture your attention.
- Ask three simple questions as you read:
 - What does this passage say about the character of God?
 - What does this passage say about mankind?
 - And how can I practically respond to this passage today?
- Write down your observations, insights and things the Lord speaks to you in a journal.
- Write down questions that arise as you read and seek counsel from an experienced mentor for input on how to interpret and apply Scripture.
- As you read, don’t simply read for information, but for transformation. We don’t want to be merely hearers of the Word but doers also (Cf. James 1:22-24). Talk to God in the process.
- Understanding the context is important. Take note of the word choice. Use an app like Blue Letter Bible to look up the Hebrew and Greek meanings of keywords. Consider reading a translation that is truer to the original grammar and syntax like ESV or NASB. Let Scripture interpret Scripture. Never base a

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- belief on one word or phrase, but on the whole teaching of Scripture. Read other translations for fresh insight and perspective.
- “To meditate” simply means to think deeply about something. If a passage of Scripture stands out to you, don’t just keep plowing through the text. Stop and think about it. Talk to the Lord about it. Chew on it, internalize it, and hide it in your heart so that, like the Psalmist, you won’t sin against God (Cf. Psalm 119:11). Pick one Scripture a week for memorization and pray that verse throughout the day. Ask God for a hunger for His Word and enjoy discovering God in His Word.