

ENGAGING THE SCRIPTURES

Bible Study Tools



While reading Scripture, it is good to have a method for understanding. Choose one of the following methods for your Bible study time.

ROAD Method

The R.O.A.D. method is a journaling technique. The acronym contains the directions and we encourage you to journal your responses.

R. (Read)

Pray for understanding, then read through the passage. If you have time, read it through twice.

O. (Observe)

Observe the details. Pay attention to the facts. Who, what, where, when, repetition, contrasts, promises, warnings, etc. . .

A. (Apply)

Answer two fundamental questions as you observe and think about the text: 1. What do I hear God saying, 2. What can I do about it?

D. (Depend)

Pray for continued understanding, trust & obedience throughout the day. Ask God to help you apply the truths you've learned today. Confess and repent of any sin you've learned of and embrace God's grace.

4 Questions

When we study God's word we want to know God, not just acquire information to improve morally. The 4 questions help with this effort.

1. Who is God?

As you consider the text, what aspects of God do you learn? What about His character & nature.

2. What has He done?

God's character is often expressed in His actions. What do you see God intending or doing in the passage?

3. Who are we?

We were created in God's image, therefore knowing who He is reveals truths about who we are. We also see how mankind has rebelled against God. How does the passage teach you both aspects?

4. What are we to do?

Rooted in what you are learning about God's character and nature, and that you were made in His image, how can you respond to become more like Him?

7 C's of Bible Study

In this method we will attempt to gain understanding of the text through questioning so we end up with the ability to summarize the passage and understand the main idea.

1. Caption

After reading, give the text an overall summary heading. Think through the reading to get the main idea

2. Contents

Outline the passage using points and sub-points. Try both chronological and topical.

3. Chief People

List the major characters in the passage and a few notes about them.

4. Central Verse

Select a verse that stands out to you as most vital, either to the text or to your life.

5. Crucial Word(s)

What are the key words in the reading? Which words, once you know the meaning, open up the text?

6. Challenges

What don't you understand in the passage? What concepts are you struggling with?

7. Cross-References

In your Bible you should find cross references in the margins. Use those to gain greater understanding.

Group Discussion Template

As you gather in a community (in person or online) here are some questions you can use to help get the most out of your time together. We recommend the participants write down answers first and remember to pray before you begin.

1. What is God telling you this week through His word?

2. What are some things you could do about it?

3. What are ways you are seeing God most clearly, or need His help most?

4. How can we pray for you?

After discussing these things, choose a passage from the week's reading and a method of study then dig in together. End your time together with prayer. Express gratitude towards God for His love, grace and faithfulness. Pray for each other specifically, and ask God to guide you deeper into His word.