

Basic Bible Study Method

As you seek to spend 5 days in a week engaging the given text, consider breaking up this method into several days in order to have time to think and pray through the text and gain a better grasp of what God is communicating to you through his living and active word.

Step 1: Read

- Read through the text a few times,
- Underline, highlight, circle words and phrases that stand out to you.

Step 2: Observations: What does the text say?

- Write out key words, people, or phrases.
- Note transitional words (e.g. therefore, but, so that, because, etc.).
- Note comparisons or contrasts.
- Note commands that are given.
- Note major themes that correlate with other themes you see in Scripture (e.g. redemption, brokenness, the gospel, grace, community, etc.).
- Look up key words.
- Utilize cross-references to see where similar ideas come up in other texts.
- Ask questions of the text (e.g. Why does Paul say it this way?)

Step 3: Interpretation: What does the text mean?

- What did the author intend for the original audience to get from his words?
- How does this fit with the narrative of the Bible?
- How is the gospel on display in this text?
- Use a commentary or study Bible notes to help you understand.

Step 4: Application: How does the text change me?

- What do you learn about God (Father, Son, Spirit) from the text?
- What do you learn about humanity/self from the text?
- Are there any commands to obey? How does that apply to my life?
- Is there any sin that I need to confess or repent of?
- How does this text effect my belief, worship, identity, or actions?

Step 5: Summarize

- Write out what the text says in your own words after studying it.

Step 6: Share

- Take time to identify and share truths that you learned from the text with 1-2 people via text, email, phone, or in person.