

THE REAP METHOD

READ

Find the passages for today's reading in the Bible Reading Plan. Read the passages with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction, and correction (2 Timothy 3:16). Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

Spend some time reflecting and writing about what you've read.

Write down one or two of the key verses that stuck out to you. Ask yourself these questions and write down your thoughts:

- × What is going on in the passage?
- × Who is writing and who is he writing to?
- × When was the author writing?
What are the circumstances that the author is addressing?
- × Does the writer mention anything that might indicate his purpose or intent?
- × How do you think the author wants his audience to respond?

APPLY

After examining the passage, apply the text to your own life. Ask yourself these questions:

- × What is God's word for me from this passage?
- × How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?
- × What are the things in my life that need to change in light of this truth?

PRAY

Pray through the passage and your application, asking God to change your heart and to change your life, based on the time you've spent in God's Word.

AN EXAMPLE OF REAP

Here is an example of using the REAP method to read and study your bible.

READ

1 Kings 8–9

“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built!”
(1 Kings 8:27 ESV)

EXAMINE

Solomon builds the temple and brings the ark of the covenant into the holy of holies, but he realizes that God cannot be contained by a house made with human hands.

APPLY

I will not treat God as if He’s only present in a church building on Sundays. Rather, I will acknowledge that He is everywhere and seek to dwell in His presence wherever I go and wherever I am.

PRAY

God, forgive me for believing that you are smaller than you really are. Give me faith today, and help me to believe that you are truly everywhere.

