



THIS MATTERS

How Do I Read the Bible?

REAP (Read, Examine, Apply, Pray) is a straightforward way to process what you're reading, either on your own or with a small group of people.

READ

Open your Bible and ask the Holy Spirit to teach, correct, and train you (2 Timothy 3:16). As you're reading, ask these questions:

- What is happening in this passage? What things are emphasized, repeated, related?
- What do you see about God? What is God doing in this passage?
- What do you see about man?

EXAMINE

Spend some time reflecting. Ask yourself these questions, and write down your thoughts:

- How do you think the author wants his audience to respond?
- What do you learn about God's character?
- What wrong beliefs about God and myself did I have?

APPLY

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

- How do I need to repent? What truths do I need to believe? What false beliefs must I turn from?
- What can I do – empowered by the Holy Spirit – today to apply this passage?

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.

[Here is a quick example of REAP.](#)

SHARE

After you finish, share what God taught you with at least one person—your roommate, your spouse, your kids, or your coworkers. Don't keep what God taught you to yourself!

This plan will take you through the Bible in one year. You can also [download a PDF](#) of the entire year, if you like.