

How to Study the Bible Devotionally

by Heather Ablondi

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

2 Timothy 3:16

Step One:

Pray - we should never come to God's Word without first praying and asking the Holy Spirit for guidance and illumination.

Step Two:

Read - it is important to have a systematic reading plan. Many Bibles have these listed in the back or you could search for one on the Internet. If you use the YouVersion Bible app, you can choose one of many wonderful reading plans they have gathered from various sources. You can also simply choose one book of the Bible that you would like to know more about and read a chapter a day.

Step Three:

Meditation - choose one or two verses that really stand out to focus on. Think on these verses and what they mean to you.

One of the ways that you can meditate on a verse is to say it aloud, each time placing emphasis on a different word and watch for new meanings to develop.

You can also paraphrase the verse(s). Take the verse and rephrase it in your own words using contemporary words and language.

You can personalize the passage you are studying by putting your name in place of nouns or pronouns. For example “Heather praises you because she is fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, she knows that full well.” Psalm 139:14

Another way to meditate is to use the questions from this silly acrostic: S-P-A-C-E-P-E-T-S.

- Sin to confess?
- Promise to claim?
- Attitude to change?
- Command to obey?
- Example to follow?
- Prayer to pray?
- Error to avoid?
- Truth to believe?
- Something to praise God for?

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Finally, you can pray back to God the verses on which you are meditating. A great resource to learn how to do this is Beth Moore's *Praying God's Word*.

Step 4: Application - Our goal in Bible study should never be just head knowledge, but also heart change. This is why application is so important. I encourage you to write a very specific application in a journal.

This application should be personal, possible, provable, and probable.

Revisit these applications from time to time and ask if you have successfully applied this truth to your life. One of the most rewarding aspects of Devotional Bible Study is to be able to look back through your journal and see how you have grown through the study of God's word.