

Open Your Bible



Find a Bible study method that works for you.

Before you begin to study, ask the Holy Spirit to show you God's truth. Jesus promised that this is the work of the Holy Spirit in his followers.

I. Two verses for meditation and prayer

Psalm 27:13

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10

Respond with the TRIP method

1. Thanksgiving
2. Regrets
3. Intercession
4. Promise

II. Personal Lectio Divina

Philippians 2:1-13

Read the passage:

What does this passage say about God?

Read the passage again:

What does this passage say about relationships between people?

Read the passage again:

What does this passage say about relationships between God and people?

Be quiet and wait for the Holy Spirit to enlighten you about what needs to change in your life.

III. Tell the story

Exodus 3:1 – 4:17

God asks Moses to make a hard change in his life

Read the story silently and ask the Holy Spirit to help you absorb the story.

Read the story aloud and ask the Holy Spirit to show why God wants you to hear the story.

Read the story aloud again, and put the emphasis on different words than you emphasized the last time. Ask the Holy Spirit what new things you are learning by the new emphasis.

IV. Read Psalms through in one year

There are 150 Psalms. Most are of a size that is comfortable for one day's reading. Others can be broken into segments. There are numerous plans available as books and online. You can download a plan at www.katherineharms.com at no charge.

V. Use the REAP process

Read Luke 4:16-30

Read the complete passage at least two times. Then begin to REAP the harvest of this text.

R – What verse stands out as you read the whole text? Choose this verse as your point of **Reference**.

E – **Explore** this verse – Use a commentary that fleshes out this verse. If any of the words seem more important than others, look them up in a dictionary.

A – Identify one way in which this verse **applies** to your life. Is there a change you need to make? Do you see your life differently because of the teaching of this verse? How can you **apply** this text in your life? How will your life be different because of this study?

P – **Pray** and dedicate what you have learned to the Lord.

VI. Memorize a meaningful verse each week

Some texts or individual verses mean more to you than others. As you read during a week, some verse will speak to you or point you to some of the new understanding you have gained by study. Select that special verse and spend the following week memorizing it. Focusing on this verse will help you remember what you studied last week, and every time you say it to yourself, you will be teaching yourself those truths all over again. After you memorize the verse, you will find yourself

recalling it again and again as life takes you into situations where that truth applies.

VII. Study a single word

Curiosity about a single word usually arises as you see it used in some specific verse. The following suggestions will help to enhance your understanding of the word.

- Look the word up in an English dictionary
- Look it up in a Bible dictionary.
- Look it up in a concordance and read several verses where it is used.
- Some verses are embedded in stories that will enhance your understanding of the word.
- If you have access to a book like Strong's Exhaustive Concordance you can get a lot of perspective on the word that will enhance your understanding.
- You also might find a whole book about that word.

VIII. Study a single book

When you read a book in its entirety several times, it takes on a different character in your memory. Reading a book once is good, but you will be surprised at the things that look different to you after reading the book more than once. Use the same techniques you used to use in school when you needed to study a book.

This is for discovery when you start, but over time, you may find that you dig very deeply into some books.

- Outline the book
- Make a timeline of the book
- Identify the purpose of the book and the key ideas
- Decide if the key ideas in the book relate to other books of the Bible. If yes, in what way?
- Discover how this book links to other biblical books
- List the characters in the book and look at those that intrigue you.

IX. Study a single character

- Read everything the Bible says about this character. What is the most important thing you observe about the character?
- Find information about this character in two or three commentaries. Never rely on one reference book alone.
- Think about why this character was important enough to be in the Bible.

- Think of two or three important stories about this character and decide why those stories are important.
- You will probably come back to this study more than once as you learn more. It is interesting how characters flesh out and live in your heart after years of study.
- Ask God to show you what you should learn today from this character's life.

X. Read the whole Bible through in a year and journal your thoughts and prayers each day.

This practice helps you keep in touch with seldom-read texts and bring old friends back to mind.

XI. Read the whole Bible through in two years and journal your thoughts and prayers each day.

It is easier to read the Bible in two years, because the readings are shorter. If you miss a day or two, catching up isn't such a big challenge.

Reading the Bible through in a year or two is not the same thing as conducting deeper studies of books, characters, verses and words. However, as you read and reread the whole Bible, it helps you to stay in touch with texts you hear less often in other contexts.

Start simple. Follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit as you grow in faith and understanding.

Visit www.katherineharms.com for more helps.

Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path

Psalm 119:105



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