

Bible Study Methods

Four simple ways to read a passage slowly. Pick one, not all four.

SOAP

Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer

S. Scripture — Write down the verse or passage that stood out to you.

O. Observation — What stood out? What words caught your attention? What is God saying here?

A. Application — How does this apply to my life? What is one way you can put it into practice?

P. Prayer — Pray, asking God to help you apply what stood out to you.

Discovery Bible Method

A simple, structured way of reading the Bible to encounter God

1. Read — Read the passage out loud.

2. Retell — Retell the passage from memory.

3. Ask — What do you see? What does this say about God? What does this say about us?

4. Apply — What is God saying to you? What are you going to do?

Lectio Divina

An ancient practice of slow, prayerful reading

1. Lectio (Reading) — Read the passage slowly, a couple of times.

2. Meditatio (Reflecting) — What is the author trying to say? What words or phrases leap out at you?

3. Oratio (Responding) — Read the passage again. Spend time listening to God. What do you sense God is saying to you?

4. Contemplatio (Remaining) — Be still. Pray, and write how God has spoken to you in this passage, and your response to him.

Meditation

Six ways to meditate on a verse

1. Picture it — Visualise the scene in your mind.

2. Pronounce it — Say the verse aloud, emphasising a different word each time.

3. Paraphrase it — Rewrite the verse in your own words.

4. Personalise it — Replace the pronouns or people in the verse with your own name.

5. Pray it — Turn the verse into a prayer and say it back to God.

6. Probe it — Ask yourself: is there a promise to keep, an attitude to change, a command to keep, an example to follow, a truth to believe, or something to thank God for?