

HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE
WEEKS 3 & 4:
Guidelines for Daily Devotional Reading

As believers, it is vital that our commitment to God's Word goes beyond what others teach us, but that we each seek to "*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.*" (2 Timothy 2:15). A key part of this is our personal devotional reading. While we may miss days from time to time, ideally each of us are committed to seeking to spend time every day reading and studying God's Word. While these ideas will not instantly unlock every truth contained in the Bible, hopefully they will help make it a little easier to understand the Bible's teaching in personal study.

I. The Bible is God's Word, given so that we can _____

a. The essential connection between the Bible and _____

You cannot _____ apart from studying the Bible

b. Let the Bible be the _____ – not _____

c. Commit to _____ the scriptures

d. Let God's Word _____

If you search the Bible, but don't _____ you're not giving it real authority in your life

II. Steps in _____

a. Pray for God's _____, asking the Holy Spirit to _____

b. Remember _____ for interpreting the Bible

Rule 3 is "the Bible is by its very nature understandable, practical, and applicable."
Subpoint D of this rule is...

The main question to answer with every passage is: _____

Rule 5 is;

When studying any passage, remember that God has written it to one person: _____

III. Questions to ask in _____ the Bible devotionally

1. Who:

Remember the second law of interpretation: "*In every passage, God is always the main character.*"

- Romans 13:1-7

Pay attention to the _____

- 1 Samuel 17:4-7 & 32-39

2. What

Again, pay attention to the _____, don't _____ too quickly.

- Ephesians 2:8-9
- Acts 9:26-28; & 11:22-26

3. Why

- Philippians 1:12-30
- Acts 16:1-3

4. How

- Multiple wives of Abraham, Jacob, and David

5. What are the parts of the passage that seem _____

IV. Questions to ask in _____ the Bible

1. What does the passage reveal about _____

- Genesis 37:12-18:

- James 1:2-8:

2. What does the passage reveal about _____

- James 4:1-3:

- 1 John 2:15-16:

3. How does this passage confront my _____

- Galatians 5:19-23:

- Ephesians 5:21-33:

4. How does this passage confront my _____

- Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)

- Acts 5:1-11:

5. Remember to focus not primarily on the _____ to be avoided and the _____ to be rejected, but on the _____

- Ephesians 4:20-24

V. _____ to take in application – in personal devotion time

1. Make it a priority to decide upon a set time and place for your daily devotional reading.

2. Choose a strategy for how you will decide which passages of scripture you will read.

3. Get some sort of notebook where you can write down what God is teaching you.

4. Choose at least one primary thought and/or application from the passage which you will try to remember and apply

5. Choose one verse from the passage which you can write down or look at later in the day, allowing you to meditate on God's truth.

- Psalm 1:1-2

VI. A common error to avoid; Failing to take into account _____ that each person brings into their interpretation

- The danger is engaging in “_____” rather than “_____”

Eisegesis means “_____”

Exegesis means “_____”

- A common failure is the _____ of Scripture

- The type of things that we commonly read into the Bible include;

A. _____ Assumptions

Examples;

As best as possible, we need to resist the natural temptation to _____ into our belief system, and allow the Bible to _____

This should always be done with _____

B. Current _____ and _____ of our time

Examples:

C. The values of American _____

D. Present _____ in our own lives

VII. A couple of important reminders