

## The 4 R Bible Study Method

The Bible study method below is a basic way to dig a little deeper into any biblical passage. You don't need extra tools or resources. All you need is your Bible, a pen, a notebook or journal, and a humble, teachable attitude. The "R" repetition makes it easy to remember! You can literally take it anywhere!

1. **Read** – Read the entire passage. For instance, if you plan to study the book of Philippians, read all 4 chapters in one sitting. If you plan to study John 15, read the entire chapter. If you can, it's helpful to read the passage from several different translations. If you want to go the extra mile – or if your passage is relatively short – rewrite the passage in your own words.
2. **Record** – Read the passage again with the attitude of an investigative journalist. If you plan to study a larger passage or book, break it up into chunks to make it manageable. Observe the text, ask the journalistic questions - who, what why, where, and when – and record what you discover. Here are a few other things to look for and record:
  - Facts
  - Keywords, repeated words and phrases
  - People
  - Places
  - Timing
  - Who is writing to who and why
3. **Recognize** – Read the passage again and look back over your written observations. Ask God to show you what eternal truths and principles this passage teaches. For instance, what do you learn about God, His character, and His ways? What do you learn about Jesus and what it means to follow Him? What do you learn about the church, salvation, a life of faith, godly relationships?
4. **Respond** – This is where the rubber meets the road! How does God want you to apply His truth to your life today? Is there some sin to confess and turn away from? Is there a relationship that needs to be healed? Is there a command to be obeyed or an act of service to perform? Are there beliefs and ways of thinking that need to be conformed to God's truth?