

4 R Method for Everyday Bible Study

The 4 R Bible study method is a basic way to dig a little deeper into any biblical passage. This “inductive” method uses careful observation to discover what the passage says. We start with observation, so we can more accurately interpret God’s *meaning*. Personal *application* is our last step and end goal. 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 memorable! You can take it anywhere!

- 1. Read** - A reading plan will help with consistency and context. Choose one that is manageable with the time you have.
 - **Read prayerfully** – Ask God to give you understanding and to help you be willing to apply His truth.
 - **Read multiple times** – It’s easy to miss details and even deep truth with just one reading.
 - **Read in different translations** - Reading in different translations will increase understanding.
- 2. Record** - Before we can understand what a passage *means* we must know what it *says*. Our goal in this step is to carefully observe the passage and record what we find. Here are some things to look for:
 - **Truths about God**
 - **Key Words & Phrases**
 - **Important facts**
 - **Connecting or Transition Words**
 - **Questions and answers**
 - **Commands**
 - **Lists**
 - **Spiritual principles**
 - **Contrasts and comparisons**
 - **Word pictures**
- 3. Reflect** – Look back over your recorded observations to help you recognize and understand God’s original meaning of the passage. God’s Word has one original meaning, but endless application. (Don’t forget to consider the literary genre, historical context, and the literary context of the passage.)
- 4. Respond**
Spiritual transformation is always our goal. Try the acronym PROBE to help you apply God’s truth to your life:
 - **Prayer** – Is there something to pray for yourself or others?
 - **Repentance** – Is there a sin or area of disobedience to confess and turn away from?
 - **Obedience** – Is there an action to take or a decision to make?
 - **Believe** – Is there something to believe about God?
 - **Express** – Is there a praise or thanksgiving to voice to God?

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