

4 R Method for Everyday Bible Study

This Bible study method 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 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 first know what it *says*. Whether you mark in your Bible or take notes in a journal, "observe" the text. Here are ten categories for observation:
 - Truths about God
 - Key Words & Phrases
 - Important facts
 - Connecting/Transition Words
 - Questions & Answers
 - Commands
 - Lists
 - Spiritual Principles
 - Contrasts & Comparisons
 - Word Pictures
- 3. REFLECT** – With the Holy Spirit's guidance, use everything you've learned to understand what God means in the passage. Consider the four guidelines – genre, context, meta-narrative, and interpreting Scripture with Scripture. Look over your observations. Recognize the meaning.
- 4. RESPOND** – Think deeply and prayerfully on the meaning of the text and prepare your heart to respond. Spiritual transformation is always our end goal. Ask questions of the text and of God. Seek God's wisdom for how to apply it to your life and current circumstances. We can use the acronym **PROBE** to help us apply God's truth to our lives:
 - **Prayer** – Is there something I need to pray for myself or others?
 - **Repentance** – Is there a sin or area of disobedience I need to be confess and turn away from?
 - **Obedience** – Is there an action I need to take or a decision I need to make?
 - **Believe** – Is there something I need to believe about God?
 - **Express** – Is there a praise or thanksgiving I need to voice to God?