

4 R Method for Everyday Bible Study

The 4 R method is a basic way to dig a little deeper into any Bible passage. This "inductive" method uses careful observation to discover what the passage says. Through observation, we can more accurately interpret God's original 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 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 (Observation)

Before you can understand what a passage means you need to know what it says. Your goal in this step is to carefully observe the passage and record what you find. Look on the back of this card for 10 observation tips.

3. REFLECT (Interpretation)

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.

4.. RESPOND (Application)

Spiritual transformation is always the goal. You can use the acronym PROBE to help you apply God's truth to your life:

- Prayer – Is there something you need to pray for yourself or others?
- Repentance – Is there a sin or area of disobedience you need to confess and turn away from?
- Obedience – Is there an action you need to take or a decision you need to make?
- Believe – Is there something you need to believe about God?
- Express – Is there a praise or thanksgiving you need to voice to God?

