

BIBLE READING TIPS

Reading God's Word is one of the most enriching steps you can take toward spiritual growth. Here are some ideas for getting the most from your Bible reading.

1. Use **a good Study Bible** for your Bible reading. We recommend that you get the NIV Study Bible (Zondervan Publishing).
2. Try to find **a quiet place and time** that will work for you on most days.
3. Be as **consistent** as possible. You will find that missing one day will make it even easier to miss the next.
4. Before reading each day, spend **a short time in prayer** asking God to speak to you through His Word.
5. **Use a journal** to record of your reading progress and daily applications.

On each page of your journal, write out:

- **Date & Scripture Passage** for the day
 - **Focus Verse**
 - **Insight**
 - **Active Response**
6. **FOCUS VERSE:** What verse caught your attention? Look for a truth, principle, or example that has special relevance or significance for you. Write it out word for word.
 7. **INSIGHT:** Write out the truth you identify and explain how it could relate to your life and guide your thinking and actions.
 8. **ACTIVE RESPONSE:** What should that truth lead you to do? Write an action statement that explains a specific action you should take. What, where, who, how, and when are good prompts as you think it out.

Here are some examples of ways to begin your "Active Response":

- *"This text reminds me that I must..."*
 - *"Tonight when I am with my friends, I will..."*
 - *"Yesterday at work I needed to..."*
 - *"When I am afraid and stressed out, I will..."*
 - *"Dear Lord, I need your help and grace to..."*
 - *"Instead of _____, I should..."*
9. Finally, **talk to someone** about what you have read and what it means to you.
 10. Don't let hard-to-understand things distract you from the things that you can clearly understand. **Act on what you understand**, and ask questions about what you don't.