

Studying Scripture

Use this guide to dig deeper into the text together in the group and throughout the week on your own, as a means to grow more deeply and be transformed by the Word of the God.

Prepare: Pray for the Holy Spirit to open my eyes to see clearly as I study His Word.

Read and/or write out the passage, noting initial thoughts.

Read other translations (ESV, NIV, MSG).

Q: What am I initially curious about in this passage?

Introduction: What's the big picture?

Q: What events & themes are going on in the passage, chapter and the broader book?

Observation: What's happening in this text?

Look for repeated, connecting, comparison and contrasting words.

Q: Ask Who?, What?, Where?, When? Why? How?

Q: What questions do I have about this text?

Summarize the main idea of the passage in 1-2 sentences.

Interpretation: What does the text mean?

Check cross-references, letting Scripture interpret Scripture. (use a Study Bible or concordance)

Q: What does the author mean by what he wrote? What is the purpose of this text?

Q: What does it say about who God is and how does it point to Jesus?

Application: How do I respond to what I've learned?

Study my heart. Talk to God about the things stirred in me from the text.

Q: What is God inviting me to? What promises can I claim? What attitude or behavior does this passage highlight that I want Jesus to transform in me?

Q: What's something I learned that I can share? How can I live this out in my community?

"For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

Hebrews 4:12