

How to R.E.A.P. from Personal Bible Study

Every Christian ought to have a daily, regular time spent with God in prayer and Bible reading. God speaks to us from His Word, and we communicate with God through prayer. Most believers, however, never follow a plan to help them do this. That's why I think you will find this simple guide to be very helpful. To begin, determine a time and a place to be alone with God. Ask God to open your eyes to see wonderful things from His Word, and then dive in. Here is a simple method to help you R.E.A.P.¹ from your study of Scripture:

READ the selected passage

Following along a Bible reading plan is very helpful. Each day, you will typically read 2-3 chapters. Read each chapter slowly, carefully, prayerfully, thoughtfully, humbly, and joyfully. Remember that you are under its authority rather than standing over it as the authority. Also, look for verses to memorize from the passage.

EXAMINE it in proper context

As you read, be sure to reflect on what the text means. The goal is getting to the meaning that the author originally intended. Remember the importance of literary, cultural, historical, and theological context. Ask key questions such as:

- What is happening in the passage?
- What words, phrases, or ideas seem important?
- What does this passage teach you about God, man, Christ, and discipleship?

APPLY the passage to your personal life

Once you have gotten to the meaning of the text, you can then begin applying the truth of the passage to your life by the power of God's Spirit. Ask the following questions:

- What sin do I need to repent of or avoid?
- What truth do I need to believe?
- What commands do I need to obey?

PRAY and worship God through obedience

Our time in careful study of God's Word must always prompt greater worship of God in our hearts and lives. The objective of all Bible study is to behold the glory of Christ in His Word so that our lives can be transformed by His Spirit and conformed more and more into His image. Remember, we are to be doers of the Word, and not hearers only.

¹ www.radical.net/files/uploads/GuidetoPersonal_FamilyWorship_01_2014.pdf