



Part 4: Diving In

Bottom Line:

**The Bible wasn't given for our information
but for our transformation**

Environments that Help You Understand the Bible

- Teaching environment
- Group environment

How to “Read” the Bible

- **Responsibly**

¹⁵ Be diligent to present yourself to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15 (NKJV)

How to “Read” the Bible

- Responsibly
- Repeatedly

The more you read
the more you understand

How to “Read” the Bible

- Responsibly
- Repeatedly
- Prayerfully

**¹⁸ Open my eyes that I may see
wonderful things in your law.**

Psalm 119:18 (NIV)

How to “Read” the Bible

- Responsibly
- Repeatedly
- Prayerfully
- Patiently

¹⁵ ... Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. ¹⁶ He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand....

2 Peter 3:15-16 (NIV)

How to “Read” the Bible

- Responsibly
- Repeatedly
- Prayerfully
- Patiently

¹²⁵ I am your servant; give me discernment that I may understand your statutes.

Psalm 119:125 (NIV)

How to “Read” the Bible

- Responsibly
- Repeatedly
- Prayerfully
- Patiently
- **Imaginatively**

How to “Read” the Bible

- Responsibly
- Repeatedly
- Prayerfully
- Patiently
- Imaginatively
- **Expectantly**

¹¹ ...so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:11 (NIV)

How to “Read” the Bible

- Responsibly
- Repeatedly
- Prayerfully
- Patiently
- Imaginatively
- Expectantly

¹² For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

Hebrews 4:12 (NLT)

How to “Read” the Bible

- Responsibly
- Repeatedly
- Prayerfully
- Patiently
- Imaginatively
- Expectantly
- Reverently

¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT)

How to “Read” the Bible

- Responsibly
- Repeatedly
- Prayerfully
- Patiently
- Imaginatively
- Expectantly
- Reverently
- Responsively

³³ Teach me, Lord, the way of your decrees, that I may follow it to the end. ³⁴ Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart.

Psalm 119:33-34 (NIV)

How to “Read” the Bible

- Responsibly
- Repeatedly
- Prayerfully
- Patiently
- Imaginatively
- Expectantly
- Reverently
- Responsively

²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. **Do what it says.**

James 1:22-25 (NIV)

How to “Read” the Bible

- Responsibly
- Repeatedly
- Prayerfully
- Patiently
- Imaginatively
- Expectantly
- Reverently
- Responsively

²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it – not forgetting what they have heard, but **doing** it – they will be **blessed** in what they **do**.

James 1:22-25 (NIV)

What to do As You Read the Bible

- Use a pencil & take notes
- Mark key words and phrases
- Ask “detective” questions:

Who - What - When - Where - Why - How

Look For Things that Are...

- **Emphasized**
 - ~ The amount of space devoted
 - ~ Stated purpose (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)
 - ~ Order in which it was given

Look For Things that Are...

- Repeated
 - ~ Terms, phrases, clauses
 - ~ Old Testament quotes

Look For Things that Are...

- Compared
 - ~ Simile: “like” or “as” (1 Peter 5:8)
 - ~ Metaphor: comparison of direct statement
(John 15:1)

Look For Things that Are...

- Emphasized
- Repeated
- Compared
- In Lists

¹¹ But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

1 Timothy 6:11 (NIV)

Look For Things that Are...

- Emphasized
- Repeated
- Compared
- In Lists
- **General Principles**

~A succinct statement of a universal truth

How to Apply What You Read

Ask application questions: Is there a/an...

Reference to memorize

Example to Follow

Attitude to change

Deed to perform

Sin to confess

Command to obey

Reason to rejoice

Insight to share

Prayer to repeat

Truth to believe

Urge to resist

Reward to Claim

Error to avoid

Marks of Good Application

- It is personal
- It is practical
- It is possible

Tools of the Trade

- **A good study Bible:**
 - ~Life Application Study Bible
 - ~NIV Study Bible
- **Bible overview books: Talk Thru The Bible**
- **Commentary: Life Application Bible Commentary**

Tools of the Trade

- **Books on how to study the Bible**
 - ~ Rick Warren's Bible Study Methods
 - ~ How To Study Your Bible, by Kay Arthur
 - ~ Living By the Book, by Howard Hendricks
- **Websites:**
 - BibleGateway.com
 - BibleStudyTools.com
 - YouVersion.com
 - StudyLight.org

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT)

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