

Living by the Book

Study to understand!

Realizing how to Read

You must learn to read (ch. 7)

- Learn to read better and faster.
- Learn to read as for the first time.
Dangerous words in Bible study: "I already know that."
- Read the Bible as a love letter.

1. Read Thoughtfully (ch. 8)

- This involves study.
- Study is not boredom!
"The truth of God is there, able to transform your life. But you must probe for it."—Hendricks, p. 80

2. Read Repeatedly (ch. 9)

"The genius of the Word of God is that it has staying power; it can stand up to repeated exposure."—Hendricks, p.

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- Read entire books in one sitting.
- Start at the beginning of the book.
- Read the Bible in different translations.
- Listen to recordings of Scripture.
- Read the Bible out loud.
- Set up a schedule for Bible reading. Need help? Ask us!

3. Read Patiently (ch. 10)

- The fruit of the Word takes time to ripen. Stay in the Word! Don't revert to secondary sources.
- Stay in it for the long haul! It's not a sprint, but a marathon.
 - Work with 1 book for 1 month
 - Zoom in and Zoom out
 - Alter your approach
- 2 principles of patience
 - Be patient with the text.
 - Be patient with yourself.

4. Read Selectively (ch. 11)- Basic Questions

- Who? (Who are the people involved?)
- What? (What is happening in this passage?)
- Where? (Where is it taking place?)
- When? (When is it taking place?)
- Why? (Why do you think God put it in the narrative?)
- Wherefore? (So what?- What difference would this make in your life?)
- How? (How do I do this thing? This is a question of method)

5. Read Prayerfully (ch. 12)

- Prayer is the key to effective Bible study. Learn to pray before, during, and after your reading of the Scriptures. Pray when you don't understand a passage!
- Don't try to imitate the prayers of other Christians.
- Do turn Scripture into prayer!

6. Read Imaginatively (ch. 13)

- The Bible seems dull to many because we approach it dully.
- Become a master of using your imagination.
 - Try to put yourself into the sandals of the characters! Think about the story from their perspective.
 - Rewrite the text in your own paraphrase.
 - Read Scripture in a different language.
 - Have someone else read it out loud to you.
 - Vary your setting.
 - Do everything that you can to see Scripture from a different perspective!

7. Read Meditatively (ch. 14)

- Learn to reflect on Scripture.
- Meditation is a mental discipline that you carry throughout the day. It's a mind-set & a lifestyle in which the Word courses through your mind.
- Biblical meditating is filling your mind with the truth of the Bible that God has revealed.

8. Read Purposefully (ch. 15)

"Purposeful reading looks for the aim of the author. There isn't a verse of Scripture that was thrown in by accident. Every word contributes to meaning. Your challenge as a reader is to discern that meaning."—Hendricks, p. 119

- Purpose through Grammar
 - Verbs
 - Subject and object
 - Modifiers (adjectives and adverbs)
 - Prepositional phrases
 - Connectives

- Purpose through literary structure
 - Biographical structure- focuses on key people
 - Geographical structure- focuses on key places
 - Historical structure- focuses on key times
 - Ideological structure- focuses on key ideas and concepts
- Structure is the doorway to understanding the author's purpose.
- This also steers us away from the question: "What does this passage mean to me?"

9. Read Acquisitively (ch. 16) (reading to remember!)

- How is this possible? "The key is personal, active involvement in the process."—Hendricks, p. 129
- Acquisitive reading desires to retain in, not just receive it; to possess it, not just perceive it.
- We remember 10% of what we hear, 50% of what we see & hear, and 90% of what we do, see, and hear.
- When you're trying to remember a Bible passage, be creative!

10. Read Telescopically (ch. 17)

- This means to view the parts in light of the whole.
 - Look for connectives (and, but, therefore...etc.)
 - Pay attention to context: What is the big picture?
 - Evaluate the passage in light of the book as a whole.
 - Look at the historical context of the book.

Thanksgiving Challenge!

Read and Observe everything that you can in the book of Philemon. Don't worry, the whole book is only 25 verses long! Use tips from this week and last week's handouts (if you need them again, let me know and I can send them to you).

In fact, to make it a little easier, here's the context of the book (although, if you read the story well enough, you might not even need this section that I'm giving to you).

Context:

(provided in the ESV introduction to this book)

"Onesimus (which means "useful") was a slave of a believer named Philemon in Colossae. Apparently Onesimus had stolen from Philemon and fled. At some time while Paul was under arrest, Onesimus met him and became a Christian.

Paul apparently wrote this letter at the same time as Colossians and gave it to Onesimus to carry back to Philemon (see Col. 4:9). Paul appealed to Philemon to accept Onesimus back into his household, but as a brother in the Lord rather than a slave."

Philemon 1-25

¹Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our beloved fellow worker ²and Apphia our sister and

Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, ⁶ and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. ⁷ For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you.

⁸ Accordingly, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do what is required, ⁹ yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you—I, Paul, an old man and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus— ¹⁰ I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. ¹¹ (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) ¹² I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. ¹³ I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by

compulsion but of your own accord. ¹⁵ For this perhaps is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back forever, ¹⁶ no longer as a bondservant but more than a bondservant, as a beloved brother—especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. ¹⁹ I, Paul, write this with my own hand: I will repay it—to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

²¹ Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say. ²² At the same time, prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping that through your prayers I will be graciously given to you.

²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, ²⁴ and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

²⁵ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.