

REAP

READ

Open your Bible and ask the Holy Spirit to teach, correct, and train you (2 Timothy 3:16). Read the passage out loud once or twice and then silently a few times. Keep these things in mind as you read:

- What is happening in this passage?
- What things are emphasized, repeated, related?

EXAMINE

Spend some time reflecting. If you speed through this your application will be shallow. Ask yourself these questions, and write down your thoughts:

- Make observations
 - Compare and contrast, “If...then” statements, trace the argument, etc.
- Ask questions
 - Who are the main characters in this text?
 - What is the author’s intent in communicating?
 - Are there any key words or phrases?
 - What happens in the surrounding verses/chapters?
 - How do you think the author wants his audience to respond?
 - What do you see about God? What is God doing in this passage?
 - What do you see about man?
 - What’s the difference between the biblical audience and me?
 - What do you learn about God’s character?
 - How does this passage point to/speak of Jesus?
- Sum it up
 - How would you articulate the main idea of this passage in your own words?

APPLY

After examining the passage, apply the text to your own life. Ask yourself these questions:

- What wrong beliefs about God and myself did I have?
- How do I need to repent?
- What truths do I need to believe?
- What false beliefs must I turn from?
- Is there an application in the text?
 - A promise to claim? Action/attitude to avoid or embrace? Command or exhortation to live out?
- What difference does this make?
 - Up: What do you learn about God the Father, the Son, and/or the Spirit? What do you learn about the cross and resurrection?
 - In: How has this passage encouraged you? How has it challenged unbelief and sin in your life?
 - Out: How does this passage equip you to more lovingly live in Christian community? How does this passage spur you on to engage those around you who don’t know Jesus?
- What can I do – empowered by the Holy Spirit – to apply this passage within 24 to 48 hours?

PRAY

Pray through the passage and your application, asking God to change your heart and to change your life, based on the time you’ve spent in God’s Word.