

THE REAP METHOD

READ

Select your passage. If you are looking for a plan to help you spend consistent time in the word you can find a bible reading plan that we recommend at www.fortifiedhills/resources/biblereading. Read the passage with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction, and correction (2 Timothy 3:16). Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

Look back at the passage and spend some time reflecting on what you've read. Write down one or two of the key verses that stuck out to you. Use some or all of these questions to help you think through the passage and write down your thoughts:

- Who is writing and who is he writing to?
- What is going on in the passage?
- What do you think the author is trying to tell his readers?
- What does this passage teach me about God?
- What does this passage teach me about the human condition?
- How does this passage point to the person and/or work of Jesus?

APPLY

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

- What is God's word for me from this passage?
- How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?
- What truth am I going to believe or command am I going to follow?

PRAY

Thank God for who he is and for his Word. Ask him to change your heart and your life based on the time you've spent in his Word.

AN EXAMPLE OF REAP

Here is an example of using the REAP method to read and study your bible.

READ

1 Kings 8–9

“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built!” (1 Kings 8:27 ESV)

EXAMINE

Solomon builds the temple and brings the ark of the covenant into the holy of holies, but he realizes that God cannot be contained by a house made with human hands.

APPLY

I will not treat God as if He’s only present in a church building on Sundays. Rather, I will acknowledge that He is everywhere and seek to dwell in His presence wherever I go and wherever I am.

PRAY

God, forgive me for believing that you are smaller than you really are. Give me faith today, and help me to believe that you are truly everywhere.