

How to Read the Bible

First Steps

- **Choose a translation:**
 - NIV – Easy-to-read, thought-for-thought translation.
 - NASB – More literal, word-for-word translation.
- **Get a Study Bible:**
 - Zondervan – General study notes.
 - Ryrie – Notes emphasizing a literal interpretation.
- **Diving Deeper:**
 - Use a trusted commentary (e.g., Walvoord & Zuck).
 - Download the e-Sword app for original-language study.

Before You Read

- Pray for understanding.
- Let the text shape your conclusions (practice **exegesis**, not **eisegesis**).
- Ask the five questions:
 - Who wrote it?
 - To whom was it written?
 - When was it written?
 - Why was it written?
 - What type of literature is it?

As You Read

- Ask, "**What was the author communicating to the original audience?**"
- Read the passage literally and normatively.
- If you are uncertain of how to interpret a passage:
 - Check your notes/commentary.
 - Consult the original language (e-Sword).
 - Look up how the passage has been interpreted throughout Church history.
 - Use trusted study resources.
 - Ask your pastor.

After You Read

- Reflect on how God is transforming you through His Word.
- Put what you have learned into practice.