



Prayerfully choose a book of the Bible you would like to study.

STEP 1: Pray

- ☐ Remember to pray before, during, and after you read God's Word.

STEP 2: Historical and Background Information

- ☐ Do a quick read through of the book you are studying to see if you can answer the following questions before looking them up in a study Bible or trusted commentary.
 - Who wrote it?
 - When was it written?
 - To whom was it written?
 - In what style was it written?
 - Why was it written?

STEP 3: Dive Into The Text

Break up the book into chapters or smaller sections and complete the steps below for each chapter/section.

*Note: You do NOT have to do everything on this list. Instead, use it as a reference of what you can do to gain understanding. It's important to read the text more than once and attempt some of the items below **BEFORE** the last item on the list - use a trusted commentary.*

- ☐ Read through once either out loud or listen to it on the *YouVersion Bible App*.
- ☐ Read through a second time. Using highlighters, color pencils or pens to mark the words listed below using a different color for each. Then write in your own words what the text says about each of them.
 - God the Father
 - Jesus the Son
 - The Holy Spirit
 - Faith/Trust
- ☐ Additional categories you might highlight:
 - Promises
 - Prayers
 - Repentance/Obedience
 - Anchor Verses - verses that anchor us to God's truth during trials.
- ☐ Highlight repeated words or phrases. Write down what this repetition is illustrating or stressing.



- ☐ Identify any lists and number them.
- ☐ Look up the definition of any words you are unsure about their meaning.
- ☐ Read through a third time. Circle key transition words. Draw arrows to connect a concluding thought to its beginning argument.
 - If/Then
 - Therefore
 - Likewise
 - But
 - Because
 - In The Same Way
- ☐ Put a “?” next to an idea that is confusing. Use cross-references and/or read the text in a different translation to add to your understanding of the passage.
- ☐ **Lastly**, use a trusted commentary and additional resources to help grow in your knowledge.

STEP 4: Answer the following questions

Answer these questions on your own or use them as discussion questions if you are studying with a group.

- ☐ Try to answer the following questions based on what you learned after diving into the text.
 - How does the text connect to the Gospel:
 - Creation
 - The Fall
 - Redemption Through Christ
 - Future Restoration
 - What did this passage mean to the original audience? Does that differ from what it should mean to me?
 - What aspects of God’s character have been revealed in the text?
 - What does the text say about sin and the broken condition of man?
 - Is there sin to flee from in the text? Is there sin I personally need to repent of or confess to God in the text?
 - Are there commands to obey in the text?
 - What can I find to praise God for in the text?
 - What can I find to pray to God for in the text?