

The 5P Method

Date: _____

Passage Read: _____

Purpose

Ask yourself these questions: Why do you think the author wrote this? Why is it important enough to be in the Bible? In a sentence or two, write what you think the overall theme or topic is.

Primary Verse Which verse seems to contain the most important thought in the passage? Which one stands out most to you? Write out that verse completely and the corresponding reference.

Promises Make a list of any promises you find. Sometimes you need to infer promises from a passage. For example, John 3:16 does not come right out and promise you heaven, but it implies a promise: "If you believe, you will have eternal life."

Problems

If you find anything you don't understand – even if it's just a word – write it down as a question. Then ask someone for the answer or look it up yourself. One way to know if you have any "problems" is to ask yourself, "Is there anything in this passage that I could not explain to a friend?"

Practical Application Think about what the passage means to you. What action should you take? What do you need to change or work on so that what you have read is real in your life? Be specific – your application should tell who, what, and when.

The FACT SHEET Method

Date: _____

Passage Read: _____

List

Make a list of all the facts you can find in the passage. This will take you the most time because every passage has many. For example, here are a few from John 3:16: God loves the world. He gave His Son. You must believe in Jesus.

Link

Write a brief summary of the passage by linking all the facts together. For John 3:16, you might say, "God loves us more than anything else and He really wants us to live eternally with Him. But we have to believe in Jesus to do that; otherwise, we're dead."

The NEWSPAPER Method

Date: _____

Passage Read: _____

Who?

Make a list of all the major characters in the passage.

What?

What are the circumstances? What are the characters doing?

Where?

Where is the action taking place and why is that important?

When? What is significant about the timing of this passage?

Why? Why did God think this passage was so important that He included it in His Word?

How?

How does this passage apply to your life? How are you going to live differently today because of what you read? (Remember: applications should tell who, what, and when.)

The WHAT'S UP? Method

Date: _____

Passage Read: _____

What did I like about this passage of Scripture?

What things in this passage challenged me?

What did I not understand about this passage?

What did I learn about God?

What verse meant the most to me?

What should I do? How does this passage apply to my life? Write an application for today's passage. Your application should tell who, what, and when.

The SPECK Method

Date: _____

Passage Read: _____

Sins To Avoid

Make a list of any sins – wrong actions, attitudes, or thoughts mentioned in the passage. These are the things to avoid in your life.

Promises To Claim Make a list of all the promises in this passage. Promises give us confidence when we doubt God or face difficult times. So take them to heart and believe what they say.

Examples To Follow What examples do you find in the passage? Is there a right way of thinking or acting described in the passage that you should take as an example for your life? Write it down.

Commands To Obey Write out all the commands you find. If a passage encourages you to take a certain action, take it as a command and write it down.

Knowledge Of God To Acquire What does the passage tell you about Christ that you can apply to your daily life? God's character shines throughout the Bible as an example for us.
