

Synthetic Reading & Application Instructions (Modified)

Goal: To be mastered by the text's content by prayerfully & repeatedly reading text of the Bible continuously in one sitting.

Instructions:

- Use NIV, ESV, NASB, or NKJV English Translations
- Pray before each reading, acknowledging your trust in His Word. Ask the Holy Spirit to lay bare your soul so that the Word may identify and correct wrong thinking and acting. Ask the Holy Spirit to illumine your mind to the truth of His words. Pray during the reading as the Spirit prompts you to respond.
- Read through the text three different times. Once in one sitting, the others in chunks of logical units of thought if necessary.
 - Ignore all section and paragraph headings, chapters, and paragraphs and verse divisions. They weren't there in the original text!
 - Do not consult any other study aids (study notes, commentaries, concordances) during the readings. Try to understand the text on your own, but feel free to look things up after your readings to check your own understanding. Bring any interpretation questions and concerns to Jireh meetings, they will aid in everyone's understanding.
 - Reading #1: Read the text once through completely. Feel free to note brief observations and questions if desired.
 - Reading #2: Repeat Reading #1, but feel free to split the reading into smaller portions. Try your best to split your portions where the ideas in the text begin and end. Again, feel free to take notes.
 - Reading #3: Repeat Reading #2, focus your observation around the following:
 - the context/atmosphere of the text as a whole: including the historical context motivating the author to write what he did, and general tone of the writing
 - key passages, key words and phrases often indicated by repetition. In your summary try to summarize the "highlights" that the author is trying to convey to original readers (intended themes or purposes of their writing)
 - useful cross references in other parts of the Bible that help your own understanding of a particular verse/verses
 - questions and things that aren't really clear
- Summarize your notes in headings (ie: Context/Atmosphere, Highlights and Intended Themes, Cross References, and Questions) along with 1 to 5 personal applications:
 - for finding applications try following this method of starting from a principle in the text, contextualizing it into a contemporary situation, then finding a way to personally apply the text (see the provided example):
 - principle from scripture --> contextualize --> personal application
- Note: after completing the 3rd reading, don't stop praying, reading, and communing with God!