

Helpful Reminders When Studying Scripture

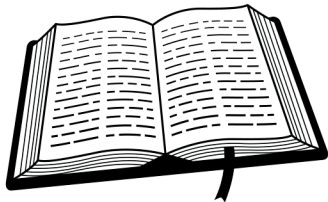
1. You aren't supposed to learn everything on the first read through

Don't feel as if you need to understand the entire text on the first read through, or even the tenth! Humanity has studied this book for thousands of years and we are still learning from it. One of the many exciting things about being a child of YHWH is that we will never come to the end of his wisdom. We will can look forward to spending the rest of our lives learning, growing, and becoming more like Him.



2. There will be hard passages - and that's okay

You will inevitably come across difficult passages of Scripture. In these cases it is helpful to keep a journal, making note of what you struggle with and why. Ask the Father to help you grow in understanding as you continue through the Word and make sure to update your journal with your evolving thoughts and other passages that may offer insight. Often, the Father will teach us lessons we never imagined just by allowing us to live with the question itself for a while. This is not to say that all of our questions will be answered this side of eternity, but I can assure you that the wisdom He longs to impart to us is far beyond anything we could hope for. Time seeking Him will always be fruitful!



3. His Word is truth, all else is commentary

There are lots of people eager to share their opinion of Scripture as if it were irrefutable fact. While it can be helpful to study other opinions, we must remain mindful of the fact that His word is truth and all else is commentary - including my notes!

4. When someone gives you a verse, take a chapter

Whenever someone gives you a verse, take a chapter. Better yet, take a book. Better still, take the whole book. Never accept a verse taken out of context without going back to the Word, putting it back where it came from, and reading the entire passage. It is important to remember that the Bible is made up of over 30,000 verses. In order to truly begin to understand, we must realize that every verse in the Bible is surrounded on all sides by the other 30,000 verses that offer context. People often pull a single verse and claim it as their life verse, but true life is found in all 30,000+ verses together. And that is why I'm a WHOLE Bible believer!



5. Ask yourself questions

1. What stands out to me in today's readings?
2. What truth do I see the Father repeating?
3. Did the Father show me something new here?
4. What areas do I feel like I need to dig deeper on?
5. Are there any places where looking up the original words might be helpful?
6. How can I apply these passages to my life?
7. What is the Father teaching me in this?
8. Have I made sure that I'm not so focused on what I would like to learn that I'm missing something the Father is trying to teach me?

6. The truth has nothing to fear from inspection

Sometimes, we are led to believe that it is wrong to question a passage of Scripture or an interpretation of it, but this is simply not true.

Remember, the truth has nothing to fear from inspection.

If you are struggling with a verse, passage, or even understanding, struggle it out with the Father. He can take it and it is always best to be honest with Him. After all, He already knows. Rather than hide your struggles from the Father, ask Him to help you grow in understanding, wisdom, and peace. The Father loves an honest, seeking heart, and He promises that if we seek Him, He will be found. (Jeremiah 29:13).



Remember the goal was never to read the Bible once, but to become daily Bible readers.

Making the commitment to read and study the whole word of God is life-changing! Even so, it can feel a little intimidating at times. On this sheet, I'm sharing some important reminders that I hope will strengthen and encourage you as we continue on this great adventure through the Word!
- Cj