

How to Read God's Word

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Listen to God speak as you read His Word.

1. Read the Bible systematically. Read through an entire book of the Bible, more or less a chapter a day. Balance your choice of books by reading different types of writings in the Bible.
2. Listen to God speak in one of the four areas for which the Bible states it is to be used: teaching-teaching the faith, rebuking-correcting error, correcting-resetting the direction of a person's life, and training-training a person in right living (see **2 Tim. 3:16-17**). As you read the Bible, review these four areas until you automatically recognize when God is speaking in these ways.
3. Mark words, phrases, and verses that appeal to you. In the margin you may want to place **M** beside verses you want to memorize, **T** beside verses with significant teachings for your life, **C** for correcting life's course, **R** for rebuke, or **I** for instruction in right living. Periodically review verses you have marked in a category.
4. Summarize what God has said to you through the Scripture. You may want to keep a spiritual journal. You can include Scriptures, memory verses, and other things you experienced in your quiet time. Review what you record. See whether a pattern emerges.
5. Pray about what God has said to you. Write what God says to you and what you say to God. If you use this plan regularly, it will become second nature to you as you talk with God. Later, as you review your notes, you will see patterns in what God has communicated to you over a period of time.
6. Be persistent until you are consistent. Aim for consistency rather than for length of time spent.