

The BIBLE PROMPT

Reading the Bible can be intimidating, but it doesn't have to be. With the right tools, it can be a lot easier to read, understand, appreciate and apply to your life. "The Bible PROMPT" is a step-by-step process for Bible reading that you can use each time to read the Bible. To use it most effectively, you'll need a Bible, a pen, a journal and a quiet place for about 10-15 minutes.

PRAY: Begin each Bible time with prayer asking God to open your eyes, ears, mind and heart to his Word. The Holy Spirit of God speaks to us through the Bible when we open ourselves up by reading and prayer. Take about a minute for this step.

READ: When reading the Bible, it is best to follow a plan.

You can find Bible reading plans in some Youth Bibles, on [The Compass Church app](#), on the [YouVersion](#) Bible app, or by looking [online](#). You don't have to read a lot of verses. In fact, reading just a section (between headings) or a single chapter at most is ideal for most people. Sometimes it is helpful to read a passage more than once, especially as you begin the observation step.

OBSERVATION: As you read each day, look for STARS. You'll want to use a journal for this step and write down your STARS. If you do a great job at this, it should take about 5-8 minutes.

- Something familiar - a name, location, object or quote...
- Themes - big Bible themes like love, faith, redemption...
- Attributes of God - like love, power, grace, justice, truth...
- Repetition - words or phrases that are repeated.
- Something Surprising - things that stand out or surprise.

MEDITATE on the MESSAGE: The Bible is a “living” book.

That means, when we read it, God speaks fresh in the moment! God’s message for you can often be found as you think about your observations. As you reflect on your STARS, what stands out? What is God showing you? Try to capture the meaning in a single sentence or two. The meaning can take about 2-3 minutes and be several things:

- A truth about God (Jesus and the Holy Spirit too)
- A truth about You (both good things and hard things)
- A truth about others (the lost, broken, poor, church...)
- A command to follow (love your enemies...)
- A warning to heed (be careful how you live...)
- A promise to claim (God will never leave you...)
- A verse to memorize (“A generous person will prosper.”)

PRAY: Take about a minute or two to thank God for what he has shared with you and ask him to help you remember it and how to apply it to your life. After you ask, you might also take a minute to just listen for the answer. God’s answer often comes by what he directs your thoughts to. The idea then is to wait quietly and not simply rush onto the next thing. This prayer time should take about 2 - 3 minutes.

TAKE-AWAY: Now that you’ve heard from God, what will you do with what you’ve heard? To walk away from time with God in his Word and not make an adjustment to your life is like looking in the mirror and walking away without wiping the food off your face! God’s word is means to change us. In fact, God wants to use his Word to transform us into the likeness of Jesus. So, when you read, always consider what you can remember, do, say or avoid in order to look more like Jesus. You might write something like, “Today I will....” Then, take it with you! Go and do what you’ve learned.