

# APPROACHING THE BIBLE

This sheet is meant to work alongside our Bible plan. Now that we have a plan, we should know how we are reading the Scripture each day. These are three simple ways we can approach our Scripture reading each day.<sup>1</sup>

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## **SQUID BIBLE STUDY APPROACH**

The goal of the SQUID approach is to provide a basic framework to help you engage scripture in a way that helps you understand the Biblical story, its implications for all of life, and your place within that story. The aim is to provide some helpful patterns of Bible engagement to help you encounter the living God by intentionally listening to His word.

**The word "SQUID" is an acronym to describe each step of this approach:**

### **SUMMARIZE**

*Creatively summarize this passage in a way that helps you remember and retell it to others.*

### **QUESTIONS**

*What questions do you have about this passage?*

### **UNDERSTOOD**

*Imagine how the original audience would have understood what God was revealing.*

### **IMPLICATIONS**

*What are the implications for all of life? // Is this passage a description of something that occurred or a prescription of what how we should live?*

### **DO**

*How is God inviting you to respond?*

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<sup>1</sup> This is edited from Redemption Tempe's Word + Spirit Campaign

## **SIMPLE BIBLE STUDY**

This is a simple and helpful way to engage Scripture. As you read a passage, ask yourself the following questions about God, life, and you.

### **GOD**

*What does this passage tell me about God?*

### **LIFE**

*What does this passage mean for the various areas of life? (Work, family, relationships, recreation, politics, education, economics, etc.)*

### **ME**

*How is the Holy Spirit inviting me to respond to this passage? (Worship, gratitude, repentance, serving others, etc. // Is this passage description or prescription)*

Practice simple bible study with a scripture of your choice. If you'd like a suggestion, this practice works really well with the gospels.

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## **LECTIO DIVINA**

The phrase *lectio divina* means “divine reading” in Latin and is a prayer practice of listening to Scripture with the ear of the heart. Go through the following steps alone or with your community.

### **SILENCE**

*Prepare your heart. Come into God’s presence, slow down, relax, and intentionally release the distractions to him.*

### **READ**

*Read a Scripture passage slowly and out loud, lingering over the words so they resonate in your heart. When a word or phrase catches your attention, don’t keep reading. Stop and attend to what God is saying to you. Be open to the word. Don’t analyze it. Listen and wait.*

### **MEDITATE**

*Read the Scripture a second time out loud. Savor the words. Listen to any invitation that God is extending to you in this word. Reflect on the importance of the words that stand out to you.*

### **RESPOND**

*Pray. Enter into a personal dialogue with God. There is no right or wrong way to do this—the important thing is to respond truthfully to God. What feelings has the passage stirred up in you? Where are you resistant? Where do you feel invited to surrender or rely on God more deeply? Talk to God about these things.*

### **CONTEMPLATE**

*Rest and wait in the presence of God. Allow time for the word to sink into you. Yield and surrender to God. Before you close, consider a way to help you dwell on this word and embody it in your life throughout the day.*

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