

THE RANSOM BIBLE STUDY METHOD

The **RANSOM Bible Study Method** is a simple six-step process reflected in the word RANSOM that functions as an acrostic, where each letter of the word stands for an action to take as you read the Scripture.

- R:** **READ**
- A:** **ASK**
- N:** **NOTE**
- S:** **SUMMARIZE**
- O:** **OBEY**
- M:** **MEDITATE**

READ

Begin by reading a passage of Scripture slowly. Then read it multiple times to become familiar with the passage. for daily readings, take it one chapter, or scene, or paragraph at a time, and the read the passage three or four times. Some find it helpful to write out the passage by hand and even memorize a key verse.

ASK

One of the most important things you can do when reading the Bible is to ask it questions. You shouldn't expect an audible voice to come down from heaven with an answer, because the answer is already given in the Word God sent down from heaven in the book you have before you. Some of the questions you should be asking of the passage of Scripture you are studying are:

- What does this passage tell us about the person and work of God?
- What does this passage tell us about human nature and the world we live in?
- What commands are given?
- What sin is highlighted or condemned?
- Is this passage revealing God's commands or God's promises?
- How does this passage connect to the whole of Scripture?
- How does this passage demonstrate the need for a Savior?
- How does this passage relate to the person and work of Jesus Christ?

NOTE

As you read the Scripture that is before you, note the main idea, key or repeated words, and prominent doctrines being emphasized. This will be easier as you work through the answers to the questions you have been asking of the text. A helpful habit at this point is to grab a pencil and write out what you are observing. In other words, you should literally "take notes."

SUMMARIZE

At this point in your reading of a passage of Scripture, it is good to summarize the main idea of the passage in your own words. This sounds easier than it really is. Take your time and work at boiling the main idea down to one brief sentence.

MEDITATE

It is important to be in the Word, and to be in the Word often. But it is even more important to keep the Word in you, and to keep it in you always. You may only have enough time for a few minutes in the Scripture on a given day, but what you read can be taken with you throughout the day through the ongoing work of meditation.