

Getting Close to the Text

General Instructions

Always begin your time with prayer. Ask the Lord to “*open your eyes that you might behold wondrous things in His law.*” Read your passage slowly and carefully. You can fill in the blanks below, mark up your text with different colors, etc., or use some combination of the two. The choice is yours!

Note what you see and use those observations to begin making sense of the text. We have also provided space toward the bottom for you to make note of curiosities and random thoughts.

Details, Details, Details!

Here are some things you might want to mark in the text:

- Connecting words
- Verb tenses
- Clear Gospel references
- Changes in tone and/or subject
- Warnings and/or exhortations

Here are some things you might want to write down:

Repeated words and ideas

Words to define

Cross-references or other passages the text brings to mind

Attributes and actions of the members of the Trinity

Comparisons and contrasts

Curiosities and Questions

(what questions is the text raising in your mind?)

Making Connections

After spending time praying through, reading, and observing the text:

In just a few simple sentences, summarize the passage. What do you think it is about and what point do you think the author trying to make?

How would you say it connects with the previous passage? To the book in which it belongs as a whole?

How does this passage fit into the storyline of the Bible?

Wrapping It Up

How is the Lord leading you to respond to what He has shown you in the text today?
Prayerfully consider your head, heart, and hands as you answer and make sure to be specific.
Use the questions below to help you as you meditate on all you've read.

What *thrilled* you?

(What encouraged or strengthened you? Instructed you? Moved you to praise? How will you respond?)

What *chilled* you?

(What convicted you? Challenged or corrected a wrong belief? Note specifically how you will respond.)

What *confused* you?

(Are there things you still don't understand? Things you want to study further?)

Finally, take some time to pray over all the Lord has shown you in His word.