

Practical Tips To Learn the Word of God

Hear

- Regularly attend worship, bring your Bible, and take notes!
- Subscribe to the BRCC podcast and re-listen to teachings to help them sink in deeply.
- Listen to an audio version of the Bible. There are many available in the YouVersion app, the ESV Bible app, or online at <https://www.biblegateway.com> or <https://www.esv.org/>
- It can also be helpful to listen to a translation different than the one you normally use. This can help you freshly hear Scripture.

Read

- Choose a specific biblical book or group of books (like the Gospels) to read, and read 1-3 chapters a day.
- If you have never done so, try to read either the New Testament or the whole Bible in a year. There are many plans that will give you a schedule to do this. There are many available in the YouVersion app, the ESV Bible app, or online at <https://www.biblegateway.com/> or <https://www.esv.org/>
- If you have been reading the Bible for a long time, try reading a different version than the one you normally use. This can help you freshly hear Scripture, renewing your delight in it.
- You can also try reading in your favorite version, but using a different style of Bible. For example, there are “reader’s versions” available that remove chapter breaks, or even verse breaks. Once again, this will help you freshly engage with Scripture.

Study

- The easiest way to study is to take time to review your notes or use the weekly devotion to delve more deeply into the teaching.
- Use cross-references to find other verses related to the one you are studying.
- Use a concordance to find other occurrences of a particular word or topic you are studying.
- Use a study Bible to dig deeply into a verse or passage. I especially recommend the ESV Study Bible, but there are many others as well. You can find many of these resources in the Church library, or in the YouVersion app, the ESV Bible app, or online at <https://www.biblegateway.com/> or <https://www.esv.org/>
- Record what you learn in your Bible, a notebook, or on an electronic device for future reference.

Memorize

- The best way to begin memorizing Scripture is to select a verse through which God spoke to you as you listened, read, or studied Scripture. Write the verse on a card and practice saying it, including the reference, until you can repeat it from memory perfectly. Strive for a perfect word-for-word recall; this will help you to remember it later.
- You should review recently memorized verses twice a day for the first few weeks. This will cement it in your memory. After this, you can review the verses once a month, and they will be retained forever.
- You can refer to the Topical Memory System by the Navigators to learn more about Scripture memory or to work with pre-chosen packs of bible verses for topics such as sharing the Gospel, the Christian life, or other topics.

Meditate

- Meditation is something you should practice throughout the day. This is not the idea of “emptying the mind” but the opposite - fully occupying the mind with a particular verse or passage. Instead of simply letting my mind wander, I occupy it with mulling over a verse, what it means, and how I might apply it in my life.
- Although initial meditation can be done in a morning or evening quiet time, the biblical idea is to do it throughout the day - while walking, driving, or doing chores.
- Meditation works alongside the four other ways mentioned above. It flows from them and flows back into them. As I hear, read, study, or memorize a passage, I can then take time throughout the day (or several days) to meditate on it, thinking about it from different angles until its meaning sinks deep within my heart and mind. This often then leads to further study or memorization related to what I have been meditating on.
- Meditation is what really helps me to apply the Bible to my life. It helps take general principles and truths and make them personal in my own life.