

Read, Record, Reflect

Here are three habits to cultivate that will increase your productivity in gaining more from your time in the Scriptures. Use them every time you open up your Bible.

READ

This may seem obvious. Yet too many “readers” are nothing but browsers. They turn pages the way they flip through channels on a TV set, looking for something to catch their interest. The Word doesn’t lend itself to that approach. It requires conscious, concentrated effort. So read portions of the Bible over and over. The more you read them, the clearer they will become.

RECORD

In other words, write some notes. Jot down what you see in the text. Keep a record of your insights and questions. Start with very elementary things. Everyone starts at the same place. Be sure to write it down. Use a legal pad or a notebook to record what you see. In your own words summarize your observations and insights so that later they will come back to you. Doing so will help you remember what you’ve discovered and use it.

REFLECT

Take some time to think about what you’ve seen. Ask yourself: What’s going on in this passage? What is it telling me about God? About myself? What do I need to do on the basis of what I’m reading here? Reflections, or meditations, are vital to understanding and applying God’s Word.