

"You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you possess eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about Me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life" (John 5:39-40, TNIV).

#### **Studying the Bible on your own =**

- Devotional/Emotional Reading ("Devo/Emo")
- Scripture Study (2PROAPT)
- Make It Your Own
- Been There, Scene That
- Punctuation Marks
- Digesting the Text
- Memorizing Scripture

#### **Leading an Inductive Small-Group Bible Study =**

- Prepare to be surprised - "Call to Me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know" (Jeremiah 33:3).
- Pray and partner up
- Set ground rules: a safe place has listening to all, respect for all, and confidentiality
- Use an Ice-Breaker
- **Observe** - What does it say? (Who? What? When? Where?)
  - Read verse-by-verse around the circle
  - Ask and Encourage questions (avoid right-wrong, yes-no questions)
- **Interpret** - What does it mean?
  - About God? About me? What's the author's point?
  - How do other Bible versions/Scriptures compare?
    - See Cross-references, Bible Concordance - [www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org)
- **Apply** - What should I/we do? (Something personal, practical, provable)
- Use Punctuation Marks to encourage participation
  - ( ) - parenthesis - a side-note to clarify the verse
  - " " - quotation marks - words that stood out to you
  - ! - exclamation mark - a point that surprised you
  - ? - question mark - something you're wondering
  - . - period - what you see as the key point
  - ... - ellipses - where you want to go from here
- "Speech is silver; silence is golden" - Don't be afraid of it.
- Pray for one another and others connected to the group

## Luke 24:13-35 (Today's NIV)

### On the Road to Emmaus

<sup>13</sup> Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup> As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; <sup>16</sup> but they were kept from recognizing him.

<sup>17</sup> He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. <sup>18</sup> One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

<sup>19</sup> "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. <sup>20</sup> The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; <sup>21</sup> but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. <sup>22</sup> In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning <sup>23</sup> but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."

<sup>25</sup> He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

<sup>28</sup> As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

<sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

<sup>33</sup> They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together <sup>34</sup> and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." <sup>35</sup> Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

## Devotional/Emotional Reading (Devo/Emo)

Start and end your time with prayer. In the middle, read through a Scripture passage three different times. The first time, listen for a phrase or word that stands out to you from the text. The second time, pay attention to what emotion you feel as you read the passage and how this emotion connects with emotions you feel in your life today. Here is a sample list of emotions below. Finally, read it through again (or a smaller portion of it that has your significant phrase in it), and listen for how God is inviting you to respond today. If you don't hear God saying anything to you in particular, don't worry, that's okay too. Think of someone you could share the verse with today. The three readings of the passage could also be done in a group setting, pausing each time to give people silence for focusing on their phrase, emotion, or invitation, and, for some, taking time to share those with the group. For more, see The Leadership Institute, [www.tli.cc](http://www.tli.cc).

### Sample list of emotions

#### Happy

Blissful  
Delighted  
Enthusiastic  
Excited  
Glad  
Gleeful  
Grateful  
Joyful

#### Afraid

Anxious  
Fearful  
Horrorified  
Nervous  
Panicked  
Scared  
Shaky  
Terrified

#### Playful

Adventurous  
Childlike  
Creative  
Free  
Lighthearted  
Lively  
Spontaneous  
Whimsical

#### Sad

Discouraged  
Disheartened  
Down  
Gloomy  
Hurt  
Lonely  
Melancholy

#### Loving

Affectionate  
Compassionate  
Friendly  
Nurturing  
Tender  
Trusting  
Warm

#### Confused

Ambivalent  
Bewildered  
Conflicted  
Perplexed  
Torn  
Troubled  
Uneasy

#### Angry

Agitated  
Bitter  
Enraged  
Exasperated  
Furious  
Irritated  
Mad  
Resentful

#### Depressed

Burned out  
Dejected  
Despondent  
Helpless  
Hopeless  
Listless  
Weary  
Withdrawn

#### Peaceful

Calm  
Contented  
Relaxed  
Quiet  
Satisfied  
Serene  
Tranquil

## Scripture Study - 2PROAPT

2PROAPT is an acrostic created by Chuck Miller, see, *The Spiritual Formation of Leaders*.

### **P = Pray**

"Pray honestly: tell God exactly what is in your heart" (139).

### **P = Preview**

"Quickly read your text all the way through" (139). Read it out loud if you can and don't stop.

"Read with a heart that asks, "God, what is on Your mind for me?" (139).

### **R = Read**

Read it slowly. This time, ask, "What is it saying?" (140). Listen for the message, tone, and repeated words or phrases.

### **O = Observe**

First, observe what the passage says. Look at structure, context, whether the main subject is God or people. Then, "step back and ask God's Spirit to focus your attention on the part of the passage that He desires you to dwell on" (140). This could be a word, phrase, sentence, or several sentences.

Second, observe what the passage means. Write out the portion that stood out to you in your own words. Ask, "What does this passage mean to me?" (140). What does it say about God? What does it say about me?

### **A = Apply**

Ask how this will influence your schedule and relationships today. What will I do in response - when will I do it - with whom will I do it?

### **P = Pray**

Pray for God's Spirit to empower you to put the truth into practice in your life.

### **T = Tell**

Ask, "who would be encouraged by what God has given me in the Scriptures today?" (142)

Chuck Miller uses this illustration: "I compare these stages of the 2PROAPT process to taking a picture with a manual camera: First I frame my shot (pray and preview), but then I have to work to get the picture in focus (read and observe). Finally, there comes the moment when the image is clear and in focus, and I am ready to shoot the picture: I am ready to live this passage (apply)" (141).

## **Make It Your Own**

Take the scripture and make it personal. Read it as though God - Father, Son, Spirit - is speaking directly to you, using your name. After reading the passage, you can substitute he, she, you, we, or us with your name. Write it that way and read it out loud. You may want to write a letter from God to you based on the text or write a letter from you back to God. In some circles, this is called an Augustinian-type prayer. If you are an NF on the Myers-Briggs personality test, you may find that this one connects with you the most.

Here's an Example using the very familiar passage of John 3:16-17, but making it personal to me: "For God so loved Raewyn that He gave His only begotten Son, that Raewyn should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn Raewyn, but that she through Him might be saved." Dear God, thanks so much for Your incredible love for me, for the whole world!

## **Been There, Scene That**

In this tool, you will imagine yourself within the story - seeing the sights, hearing the sounds, smelling the smells, tasting the tastes, touching your surroundings. Using your imagination, you relive the event. Which character in the story do you most identify with? If it's a story from the gospels, How does Jesus treat that character? What is Jesus saying to me today? If not, How does God relate to people in the story? What is God saying to me today? In some circles, this is called an Ignatian-type prayer. If you are an SJ on the Myers-Briggs personality test, you may find this particularly meaningful.

## **Digesting the Text**

This is an opportunity to dissect the text and really digest it. For this one, I highly recommend printing out a copy of the text. Get out your pen, maybe even some colored pencils, and get ready to have a conversation with the text. You could be circling and underlining. Notice how the text is put together by taking it apart and recognizing parallels, phrases, emphases, etc...

## Scripture Meditation and Memory

The following tips are adapted from *Scripture Memory Made Easy*, by Mark Water.

### What to do before you start:

1. Pray - Ask God to help you.
2. Be Positive - You *can* memorize.
3. Choose an accurate translation - the verses here are in the NKJV - and stick with it.
4. Choose a time - whenever is best for you
5. Use memory cards - 3 x 5 index cards or blank business cards work well
6. Remember the goal is to become more and more like Jesus
7. Do what the Word says

### Plan for each week:

Day 1 = Review all verses

Day 2 = Learn verse 1

Day 3 = Review all verses

Day 4 = Learn verse 2

Day 5 = Review this week's verses

### How to learn a verse:

1. Read the whole verse out loud
2. Pray to understand its meaning for you
3. Break the verse into smaller parts
  - a. Write verse on card in those shorter phrases
  - b. Only write one verse per card with the reference
  - c. Write the reference a second time on the back of the card
4. Say the first phrase with the reference, then the first and second phrase with the reference, then the first and second and third phrases with the reference, etc...
5. Say by heart just the Bible verse 3 times
6. Say by heart the Bible verse with the reference

### Additional Tips:

Use your imagination - picture the scene, think of word associations

Try for 100% accuracy when reviewing verses. It will help you remember them in the future.

One way to check how you're doing is to write out your verses on paper and then check them.

Pick a partner who you can review with and encourage.