

Study with Prayer

- Pray that God gives you wisdom and insight. Pray for His humility. Pray that what you read will be applied to your life in a way that helps you better love Him with all your heart, soul and strength, and better love your neighbor as yourself.

Study with Purpose

Where does what I'm reading fall within the big story?

- Six acts:
 - Act 1: God's Intention
 - Act 2: Exile
 - Act 3: Calling Israel to a Mission
 - Act 4: The surprising victory of Jesus
 - Act 5: The renewed people of God
 - Act 6: God comes home

Study with Perspective. Put in work!

- Who wrote it?
- When was it written? 60-62 A.D.
- To whom was it written?
- In what style was it written?
- Why was it written?

Study with Patience

- Are there things you're reading that are confusing? Check out your Bible notes or look up the book and what others say about it. As you continue to read and learn, it will become easier!

Study with Process

We sometimes tend to jump straight to application.

- Comprehension: What does it say?
 - Read it! Read big before you read small. Read the book in one sitting. Are there repeated words or sayings? Are you reading it in multiple translations? NASB or ESV are the most literal. NIV is more idea-based. The Message is a paraphrase.

- Interpretation: What does it mean?
 - Look at Bible notes.

- Application: How should it change me?
 - What does the passage teach me about God?
 - How does this aspect of God's character change my view of self?
 - What should I do in response?