

## Daily Time with God

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### Importance of daily time with God

Jesus answered by quoting Deuteronomy: “It takes more than bread to stay alive. It takes a steady stream of words from God’s mouth.”

Matthew 4.4, MSG

*Listen to my counsel and be wise. Don’t ignore it. Happy are those who listen to me, watching for me daily at my gates, waiting for me outside my home! For whoever finds me finds life and wins approval from the LORD.*

Proverbs 8.33 – 35, NLT

### How to Read the Bible

When you read, **don’t turn it into a Bible study**. Read for the grand sweep of what God has done in history. Read to get to know God better. **Read with pen in hand and mark what jumps out at you**. Pray that God will reveal his truth to when you read. Then read the passage, marking what comes alive for you (not necessarily the key ideas or the most important ideas—just those that are applicable for you today).

### Which Bible to Read

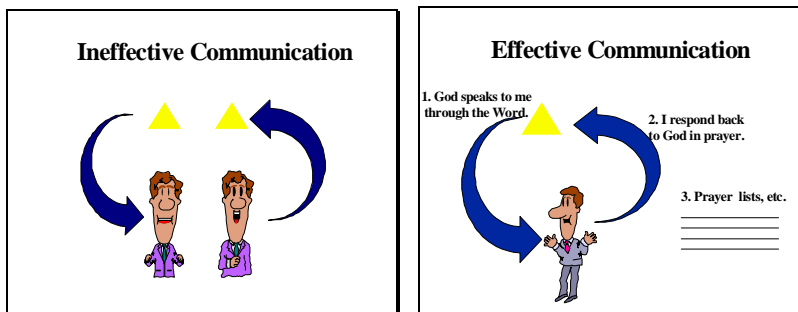
We suggest you read from a contemporary translation or paraphrase. The New Living Translation (NLT) and The Message are good, as well as the New International Version (NIV). The NIrV (a version of NIV for those who don’t read well) is available from the International Bible Society. We further suggest that you NOT read from a study Bible where the notes sometimes overcome the text!

### A Simple Plan

**Read and mark** Psalm 19.7: The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;  
 (example) testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

**Reflect** Pick one thought to meditate on for the day. Then Respond to God in prayer about it.

**Respond** ← → *For I, the LORD, have promised this, and I will do it.*  
 (God wants response) ***This is what the Sovereign LORD says: “I am ready to hear Israel’s prayers for these blessings, and I am ready to grant them their requests.”***  
 (Ezekiel 36.36 – 37, NLT)



**Record**

## Practice

Pray that God will reveal his truth to you in the following passage. Then **read** the passage, **marking** what comes alive for you (not necessarily the key ideas or the most important ideas—just those that are applicable for you today). Pick out one idea that you marked to **reflect** on, and discuss it with God in prayer (**respond**). Then **record** your thoughts in the space that follows.

<sup>7</sup> *The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;* <sup>8</sup> *the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;* <sup>9</sup> *the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.* <sup>10</sup> *More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.* <sup>11</sup> *Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.* <sup>12</sup> *Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults.* <sup>13</sup> *Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.* <sup>14</sup> *Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. (Psalm 19.7 – 14, ESV)*

Best thing I marked today: Reference: \_\_\_\_\_

**(Read)** Thought (quote or summarize the best thing): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**(Reflect)** How it impressed me

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**(Respond)** My response to God:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What if I don't see anything applicable?

**SPEAK** (“Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.”)

**S:** sin to confess

**P:** promise to claim, prayer to pray, praise

**E:** example to follow, error to avoid

**A:** attitude to change, action to take

**K:** knowledge of Christ or His world to retain

*You don't go through the whole litany every time, but if you find yourself not finding anything, you might consider these things.*

## Implementation (FREE suggestions!)

- **F**ind a time and place
- **R**ead according to a plan: book at a time (start with Mark’s gospel) or *DJ Bible Reading*  
Guide: <http://navpress.com/Assets/PDF/Product/Sample/9781576839744.pdf>
- **E**ducate: teach someone else how to do this. *You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. (2 Timothy 2.2, ESV)*
- **E**ncourage each other: incorporate sharing what you’re hearing in your daily times with God into all meetings and small groups.