

# Tips for Reading the Bible

## **Listen.**

Reading the Bible is about speaking and listening. God's Word speaks to us through the words on the page... and we listen.

## **Pay attention with your body.**

Use your whole body to read. Get comfortable... but be aware of your body, from your lips and tongue, to your ears and eyes, to your head and feet, to your breath.

## **Engage your faith.**

Reading requires faith that God will say something.

## **Have humility.**

Even if you know the story, you don't know God. Let God reveal God's self to you.

## **Be open.**

You're not reading, you're meeting God. Be open to the change this encounter may bring.

## **Be disciplined.**

Commit to a daily meeting with God. Make it part of your routine of living.

## **There is no right way to read.**

Read a section straight through once and then go back... go slowly over the section and dwell longer in interesting places... read it and commit it to memory... any way you read the Bible is good.

## **Pay attention to details.**

Who are the characters? What are they doing? Who speaks? How are their bodies positioned in relationship to each other? Where are the events taking place? What landmarks or landscapes are present? Do people move from one place to another? When are the events

happening? What time of day or year? What changes take place? Does the author explain why?

## **Pay attention to what is not included.**

The "gaps" in the text speak as loudly as the words. What is unspoken or unsaid?

## **Take it in small pieces.**

There is more to be learned from a passage in Scripture than you can absorb in a sitting. Be satisfied with one delicious morsel—don't try to digest the whole thing at once.

## **You don't need outside experts.**

You don't need a library of resources to understand the Bible. Trust God. Trust yourself.

## **God sometimes shows up later.**

You won't always be moved when you sit down to read Scripture. If nothing affects you immediately, don't worry... God will open the passage later on in the day or week.

## **Where you read matters.**

Reading Scripture will be different whether you read in your bed, at a table, in a church, in a library, in the park, on the subway, or in a homeless shelter. Try out new settings.

## **Take it into your heart.**

For any reading of Scripture to matter, the meaning of the words must find their way into your heart and into your actions. If the Spirit is working in you, it will bear fruit.

Prepared by Rev. David Lewicki for the Connection Young Adults.  
Marble Collegiate Church, [www.marblechurch.org](http://www.marblechurch.org)