

THREE STEPS TO GROW YOUR FAITH

The unfolding of Your Word gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. –Psalm 119:130

You don't have to be a big-brain scholar to study the Bible this way. Just take time to think about what you read. Read it through a few times. Read it in a few different translations. Don't forget to pray! The Holy Spirit is your Teacher (John 14:26), so begin by asking for His help.

Reading your Bible this way is about _____.
It isn't about _____ you know, it's about _____ you know.
You already _____ to learn this way.



What does it say?

This isn't just to gather facts; it's part of engaging in conversation with God. Circle verbs, nouns, adjectives and what they tell you. Note words/phrases that are repeated. Note anything that is compared or contrasted.

Write down what it says and what stands out to you about that.

Write down a takeaway lesson.

What does it mean?

Think about what the writer is saying. Basic questions to ask: What does this say about God? His works, His will, His character; what pleases or displeases Him? Is there a command to obey? A warning to heed? A promise? What does this say about people? Is there an example to follow or avoid? How does this relate to life today?

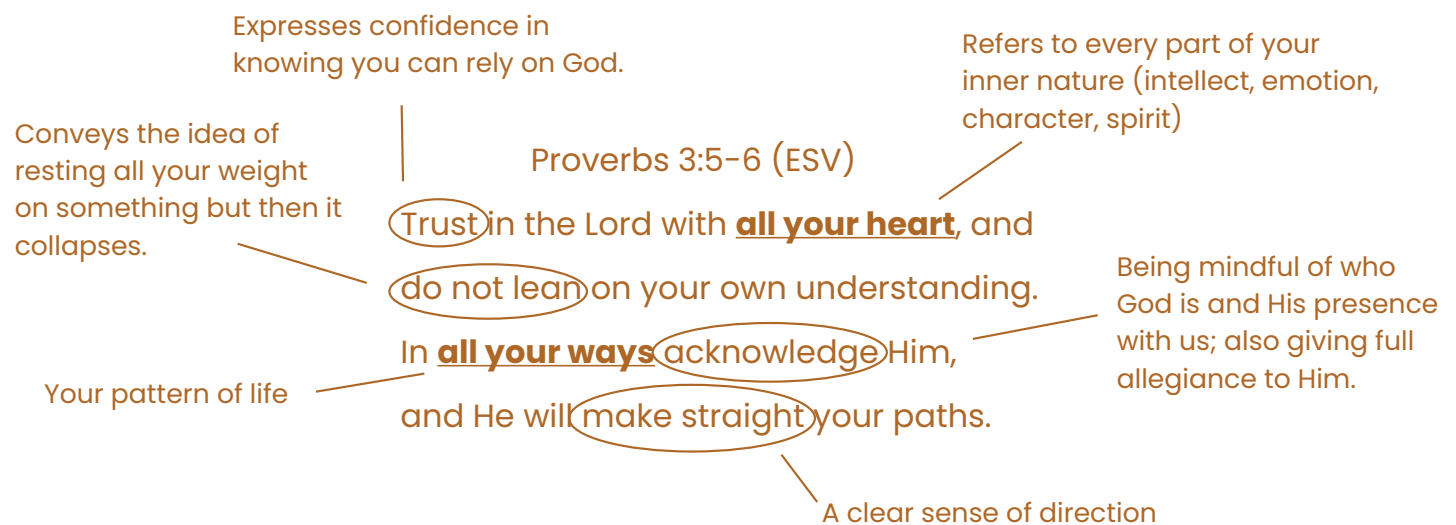
Keep it brief & easy to recall.

How does this apply to me?

Applying what you learn isn't the last step—it's the next step in personal growth. Is this a new insight or does it reinforce what I already know? Does it point out error in my actions or attitude? What does this tell me to do? What change does it require? What steps will I take to obey?

Rewrite the lesson in the form of a question to ask yourself and how you will respond.

Step 1: Here's an example of some things to notice:



Step 2: Two examples of a lesson: Trusting God helps us make wise decisions. We don't have to figure out life on our own.

Step 3: For example: Have I made up my mind to listen and obey God, no matter what? Am I obedient in the ways I already know are His will for me? If not, what needs to change?

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

(ESV)

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

(NLT)

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 17 God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

Step 1: What does it say?

Step 2: What does it mean?

Step 3: How does this apply to me?

FREE ONLINE RESOURCES:

The Bible App (youversion.com) – This app makes it quick and easy to read your Bible and switch back and forth between several translations. Highlight verses, take notes, save, and share.

STEP Bible (stepbible.org) – Quick and easy access to Greek/Hebrew word studies.

Bible Questions Answered (gotquestions.org) – A quick reference guide for help finding verses about specific topics, understanding a Bible passage or doctrine, or finding the answer to difficult Bible questions.

Bible Gateway (biblegateway.com) – Free access (with ads) to thousands of Bible study resources. Upgrade to lose ads and gain more services.

Bible Hub (biblehub.com) – Free access (with ads) to Greek and Hebrew study tools, dictionaries, history and so much more.

Bible Project (bibleproject.com) – Animated explainer videos covering everything from OT and NT books, How to Read the Bible, Word Studies, Bible Themes and Topics, and more. This site is so well done!

STUDY BIBLES AND BOOKS TO HELP YOU DEVELOP BIBLE STUDY SKILLS:

Nelson Study Bible and ESV Study Bible – Excellent notes, timelines, book introductions, in-depth articles, maps, diagrams, and extensive cross-references.

Living By the Book, Howard and William Hendricks (Moody Publishers)