

HINTS FOR READING THE BIBLE

Pray. Begin with a prayer. Ask God to guide you as you read. Your prayer doesn't have to be fancy. You might just pray, "Help me, God, to discover you and your will as I read my Bible."

Read. Read attentively. Get the facts. What's going on in the passage?

Listen. Read the passage again. Put yourself in the story. Listen for what God might be suggesting to you....listen for some word or phrase that strikes you and reflect on how that can fit into your faith and life right now. God might be calling you to address a particular relationship or issue in your life. Or you may find words of comfort and support you need at this particular time.

Respond. Talk to God about how the passage makes you feel. Talk about your doubts, your struggles, your reactions and questions about the passage and the things of your life.

Action. Ask yourself: What is God asking of me? To do some good? To stop some harmful behavior? What is the next step I need to take? How (where? with who?) can I LIVE this word of God in my life today?

Thanks. Give God thanks for the time in prayer and reflection.