

USE THE BACK OF THIS PAPER TO TAKE NOTES

HIGHLIGHT - WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

Read the entire text for comprehension.

Read again, this time

- Highlight keywords, locations, and people.
- Highlight repeated words, ideas, phrases, transition words (but, therefore, because, if/then...), lists, contrasts and comparisons, and commands.

Read again, this time

- Highlight major themes such as, Gospel truths, New self/identity, the Great Commission, the Great Commandments, the Church, Redemptive Promises, "Types" of Jesus.

Consult different translations of Scripture, the dictionary, and helpful resources such as ESV Study Bible, CSB Study Bible, blueletterbible.org, and bible.com.

EXPLAIN - WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

After you have highlighted the passage, you can begin to work towards understanding the meaning of the text. Here are some questions to ask:

- Why was this written and to whom was it originally written?
- How does this text fit with the verses before and after it?
- What would the original hearers have thought of this text?
- What does the text say about the gospel message?
- What does the text say about who we are in Christ, after we are filled with his Holy Spirit and living free from the penalty of sin?
- What does the text say about Jesus' command to go and make disciples of all nations?
- What does God want us to know about himself? About us?
- How does this text fit within the greater story of the Bible (Creation-Fall-Redemption-Restoration)?

When you are able to work through these questions, rewrite the text in your own words. If you find yourself stuck trying to explain the passage, don't worry, you're not alone. At this point, you are beginning the process of discovering the specific and personal word that God has for you from His Word. What is important is that you are engaging with the text and wrestling with its meaning.

APPLY - HOW DOES THE TEXT INWARDLY CHANGE ME?

Application is the heart of the process. Everything culminates under this heading. Ask a series of questions to uncover the significance of these verses to you personally, questions like:

- What does this tell me about my sin and need for a Savior?
- How can this passage help me?
- What does this passage mean for me today?
- How can these truths transform your life today?
 - Remember that all actions begin as thoughts and desires of the heart. How do these truths transform what you love, worship, and value most?
 - In turn, how will these renewed desires change the way you respond to God and others?
 - Are there practical things God is leading you to do differently as your heart changes?

RESPOND - WHAT WILL I DO OUTWARDLY WITH THE TEXT?

Your response to the passage may take on many forms. You may write a call to action, as the Holy Spirit leads you. You may describe how you will be different because of what God has said to you through His Word. You may indicate what you are going to do because of what you have learned. You may respond by writing out a prayer to God.

HEAD

HEART

HANDS

HIGHLIGHT - WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

TEXT: _____ **DATE:** _____

HEAD

EXPLAIN - WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

HEART

APPLY - HOW DOES THE TEXT INWARDLY CHANGE ME?

HANDS

RESPOND - WHAT WILL I DO OUTWARDLY WITH THE TEXT?