

**EQUIP:** “to equip God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up”

**Ephesians 4:12**

**SERIES: BIBLE STUDY**

**Lesson: The Devotional Method**

**Introduction:**

There are many ways to approach our personal study of the Bible. Some methods require more skills than others. Likewise, some methods require more Bible study tools than others. In this series we will present 6 approaches to personal Bible study that most of us should be able to master fairly quickly with a little effort. The first of these is the “Devotional Method”.

We start with the devotional method because it is the primary method that we should use in our daily quiet times with God. Even when we are using other methods for more lengthy and in depth Bible study the principles of the “Devotional Method” must be applied for spiritual growth.

**Devotional Method Defined:**

Reading a Bible passage with an eye to understand how God wants us to apply it to our lives. This includes meditating on the scriptures and praying for the Holy Spirit to help us understand how to put the scripture into practice. The objective is to apply what you are learning as commanded in James 1:22 which says, “***Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.***”

**Preparing for a Successful Bible Devotional:**

The act of using the “Devotional Method” for having a personal Bible study may be referred to as having a “Bible Devotional”, “Quiet Time” or any number of other labels. The important thing is that we spend this time with God daily. Here are some things we can do to get the most out of using the “Devotional Method” as we have our daily quiet times.

1. PLAN – Follow a Bible study plan
2. HEART – Approach God’s Word with a humble, thankful and obedient heart.
3. Time – Schedule the time that you are going to meet with God each day
4. Place – Identify a place that will be conducive for a great Quiet time:
  - a. You will be able to pray. Preferably pray out loud.
  - b. You will be comfortable enough to focus & have plenty of light for reading.
  - c. You will be able to write your response to God’s teachings
5. Tools – Bible, something to write with, something to write on, study aids (commentary, study Bible, Bible App, devotional book, google, etc.)
6. PLAN – Follow a Bible study plan. Also, have a prayer plan or prayer list.

## **6 Steps of the “Devotional Method**

### **1. Ask, what do I know about the Context?**

- a. What book is this in? What is this book/letter about? What’s its purpose?
- b. What is written before and after this passage (or these passages)?
- c. What’s going on in and around the verses I’m focusing on?

### **2. Ask, what is this scripture about?**

- a. Who was it written to?
- b. What was the purpose of writing this?
- c. What happened? What was being taught?
- d. What’s the BIG MESSAGE?

### **3. Ask, are there other scriptures that shed light on the passage(s)?**

### **4. Ask, what was God saying to the original audience?**

(both those in the scripture and those receiving the scripture)

- a. Was God commanding them to do something?
- b. Was God teaching them something?
- c. Was God warning them of something?
- d. Was God encouraging them about something?

### **5. Ask, what does God want me to learn from this passage for my life today?**

- a. Be prayerful and ask God to lead you.
- b. Consider other scriptures that may help you see things more clearly.
- c. If confused, ask others for input.

### **6. Ask, specifically, how will I put what God is teaching me into practice?**

- a. Is there something I need to start doing?
- b. Is there something I need to stop doing?
- c. Is there something that I can improve on? How can I improve?
- d. Is there something I should be encouraged by? Why? How will this impact my life?
- e. Is there someone I need to go speak to in response to what I’ve learned?

**6 Steps of the “Devotional Method” ACTIVITY TEXT: Acts 2:42 - 47**

- 1. Ask, what do I know about the Context?**
- 2. Ask, what is this scripture about?**
- 3. Ask, are there other scriptures that shed light on the passage?**
- 4. Ask, what was God saying to the original audience?**
- 5. Ask, what does God want me to learn from this for my life today?**
- 6. Ask, specifically, how will I put what I’m learning into practice?**