

Scripture Study Tools

Prepare yourself: The "4 P's" + 1

- **Place:** Chose a place to where you can go regularly. A place where you are free from distraction.
- **Purpose:** Remember "why you're studying." What is your objective--what do you hope happens as a result of your efforts?
- **Prayer:** Start with a prayer. It doesn't have to be long, just sincere. Ask the Lord to send His Spirit to help you learn.
- **Paper:** Come prepared with something to write with and write on. Electronic media is fine, especially if you're using a notebook on the Gospel Library App.
- **+1:** Location, Location, Location! Remember, whenever you write something, include the "**WHERE**" — Scripture Reference, from where your writing comes.
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First Reading: Airplane View/Overview

- **Read** the section or chapter heading (if you have not yet done so). "who, what, where, when, why and how." If there are places or names mentioned, take a minute to look them up (LDS Gospel Library has some great resources).
- **Divide** the section or chapter into "blocks"--a small number of verses where you want to explore for details. 5 to 10 verses is a good number with which to work.
- **Read** your "block." Overview only. Look for names, places, hard-to-understand words.
- **Summarize:** Write a word, statement or phrase describing the "topic(s)" in the block.
 - If there is only one topic, that's what will direct your study.
 - If there is more than one topic, pick one which interests you most.
 - If there aren't any topics (which may happen) move on to another block.

Pro Tip #1 *Not all topics have equal spiritual value or weight. If what you find in the current block don't "feel right" or interest you, move on until you find something that does.*

Second Reading: Inspired Questions--Level One

- **Inspired Questions:** Questions that require more than "yes" or "no." Inspired questions encourage thought and pondering.
- **Take** the topic you chose from your summary.
- **Think** of some "Inspired Questions" that can encourage you to look for answer within the block. "**who, what, where, when, why and how.**"
- **Write** the question down on your paper, then search through your scripture block or selection.
- If/When you find an answer to that question, write the response down in your notes.

Pro Tip #2 *One question that helps search your scripture block is "What do these verses teach me about Jesus Christ?" Looking for things that teach us about Christ, who He is, and what He is like (attributes and characteristics) invites revelation!*

Second Reading: Inspired Questions--Level Two

- **At this point**, you will probably have two or three answers to your inspired question now waiting for you in your notes. Review what you've written. Ask yourself "*on which truth or statement do I want to focus?*"
- **Rewrite** that answer again in your notes.
- **Ask** more "Inspired Questions"—**who, what, where, when, why and how.**
- **Choose** one of your new questions.
- **Write** the question in your notes.
- **Ponder** the question and then write your answer in your notes.
- **Review** what you've written. How does it feel? Does it make sense?
- **Re-write** your response into a "statement of power." A "statement of power" takes your response, cleans it up, shortens it (if necessary) and makes it clear to understand. The Holy Ghost testifies to the truth of such statements.

Second Reading: Inspired Questions--Level Three

- Using your statement of power, ask these two questions and write your response:
 - **"So, what?"** i.e., Why do I need to know this truth or doctrine? Why is it important to me, right here, right now?

- **"Now, what?"** i.e., If this doctrine is true and important, what am I going to do with it, right now, today? What can I do to act on this truth? How can I apply it to my life? What would the Lord want me to do because of this truth?
- Write your responses! :)

Personal Revelation and Direction--Use your agency

These final responses you've written represent things the Lord has helped you know, learn, and discover. You now have before you something upon which you may act. This is personal direction.

You have agency. Now you have a choice. You can (1) do what you wrote down and apply it or (2) feel really good inside that you studied your scriptures but walk away and ignore what was revealed.

As you use your agency and close to act, many good things will happen:

- Your relationship with the Lord will deepen.
- You will receive more and more revelation as you study.
- You will come to recognize how revelation feels--how it feels to experience truth.
- You will come to recognize this feeling in other places and at other times in your life.
- You will have greater peace and happiness.