

# READ.THINK.LIVE

Redeemer Community Group Bible Study Guide



## READ

{ *What does the passage say?* }

*Examine the text carefully to see what it says.*

### STEP 1: Pray

### STEP 2: Overview and Context

**When starting a new book or major section of a book:**

- **READ** - at least once, preferably in the same sitting, if possible several times.
- **GENRE** - What type of literature is this and how should that guide our thinking?
- **MAIN DIVISIONS** - Divide the book into main divisions and give each one a brief title.
- **MAIN THEME** - Write out the central theme of the book in a sentence or phrase.
- **IMPRESSIONS** - first impressions of the book — anything that stands out.
- **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND** - Using biblical commentaries, dictionaries, etc. read about author, date written, history or culture of the period, etc.

**When studying the same book or major section of a book, review your “Overview and Context” work.**

### STEP 3: Read the passage closely

**Read the specific passage you are studying, if possible in several translations.**

- **OBSERVE FACTS** - who, what, when, where, why, how
- **OBSERVE REPETITIONS & CONTRASTS** - (i.e. use of “but” or “rather”), cause & effect, definitions, key words, explanations, general to particular, particular to general, interrogation, descriptions, climax, verbs, pronouns, quotations
- **PUT YOURSELF INTO THE PASSAGE** - If a narrative, put yourself into the story. If it is a letter or law section, what might it have been like to get the letter or hear the law?
- **QUESTIONS** - What questions do you have about this passage?

# **THINK**

## **{ What does the passage mean? }**

*Reflect prayerfully on the text to determine what it means.*

- Who was the original audience of this passage?
- What did the author want to communicate to them and why?
- What is the main idea of the passage?
- Why is this said? Why here? Why in this way?
- What are some other ideas we find in this passage?
- Why are they said? Why here? Why in this way?
- How does the full teaching of the rest of scripture inform our thinking of this passage?
- How does the person and work of Jesus affect our understanding of this passage?

# **LIVE**

## **{ How does this passage apply to us today? }**

*Allow the truth of the text to shape our thinking, actions, & identity.*

### **HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL GAP**

**How are we similar/dissimilar to the original audience?**

### **MAIN IDEA**

**Drawing on the main idea of the passage, how can we make this general principle both personal and particular in our daily lives? Be concrete and specific.**

- **KNOW:** What is this passage helping us to understand?
- **BE:** How should this passage shape our identity? What experience is this passage helping us to encounter?
- **DO:** What specific actions is this passage calling us to put into practice?

### **TURNING BACK THE FALL**

**How might this passage help us overcome our alienation from God, self, others, nature?**

### **RELATIONSHIPS**

**What does the text teach us regarding our relationship to God, others, and ourselves?**

### **ALL AREAS OF LIFE**

**How might the passage apply to government, economics, education, work, leisure, family, arts, church, and justice?**

### **GOSPEL**

**How does the gospel affect our application of this passage? Discuss what grace-motivated obedience to this passage would look like in your daily life.**