

## A Simple Bible Study Method

### 1. Pray

Start with a word of prayer. Here is a simple one you can use:

*Father, thank you for all that you have done for me and for your word. Forgive me for anything that I have done, said, or thought that didn't bring glory to your name. As I read your word today, give me eyes to see and ears to hear what you have to say, a heart to receive your word, and a mind to understand what is being said. In Jesus' name, amen.*

### 2. Read the Passage

Read through the passage once to get a general understanding of what the passage is about. For this example, we'll explore Psalm 23:1-4.

*<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need. <sup>2</sup> He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. <sup>3</sup> He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name. <sup>4</sup> Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.*

### 3. Interact

Read through the passage again, but this time with your pen or highlighter in hand. Highlight any words or verses that stand out to you.

*<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need. <sup>2</sup> He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. <sup>3</sup> He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name. <sup>4</sup> Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.*

### 4. Question

Read through the passage one more time. Write down questions or thoughts you have.

If couldn't think of your own questions, try answering the following questions:

- *Who is the speaker?*
- *Who is the audience?*
- *What topic is being discussed?*
- *How did the audience react?*
- *What topic is being addressed?*
- *Is there a cultural significance to this passage?*

You don't have to answer every question, but they are a great place to start. **Other examples related to our sample passage:** *Why is the Lord compared to a shepherd? What is a shepherd? What is a shepherd's job? What are a rod and staff used for?*

#### 4. Research Your Questions

If you wrote your own questions, now would be a great time to research the answers to your questions using your Bible dictionary, commentary, or the internet.

Remember the Bible was originally written in Greek (New Testament) and Hebrew (Old Testament). Sometimes words that we commonly use have a different meaning or function in the original language.

This is where having a Bible dictionary or concordance is helpful. You can also use these websites [biblestudytools.com](http://biblestudytools.com) and [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org) and [freebiblecommentary.com](http://freebiblecommentary.com) to look up words and find commentaries.

#### Examples related to our sample passage:

1. What is a shepherd? A person who tends or rears sheep can also be someone who guides and directs you in a particular direction.
2. What is a shepherd's job? Keep the flock together, protect them from predators, and guide them from one pasture to the next.
3. What are the rod and staff used for? The rod was used for protection from predators, to rescue the sheep, and count the sheep. The staff was used to guide the sheep.

#### 5. Reflect

Now that you've answered all of your questions reflect on what you've read.

- Did you learn something new?
- Did your perception of the topic change based on what you read?
- What does this passage teach you about your relationship with others?
- What did this passage teach you about God or yourself?
- How can you apply this passage to your daily life?

A sampling of some online Bible Study Resources:

- [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)
- [www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org)
- [www.freebiblecommentary.com](http://www.freebiblecommentary.com)
- [www.Logos.com](http://www.Logos.com)