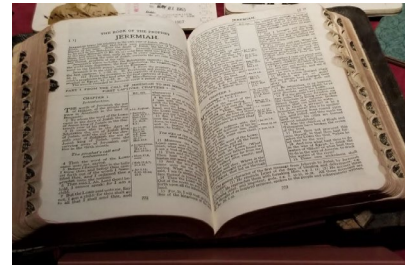


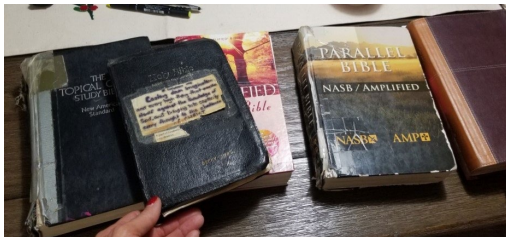
How to Study the Bible

First: Pray, and ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand His Word and what He wants to speak to your heart. He's the One who wrote it. It's okay to use commentaries (Matthew Henry, etc) but don't rely on them for God to speak to you. I often utilize Biblehub.com to dig deeper into the original meaning (Greek/Hebrew/Aramaic) of words or to compare translations. There's also the old standby, *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*.



Slow is better. Don't worry about reading large chunks of Scripture. Read to understand, not to accomplish a check off list. If you've read a chapter and cannot remember or articulate what it was about, reread it slowly, or reread a smaller portion of it. Remember, we're reading to get to know God better, to grow in our understanding of Him and to deepen our relationship with Him – not to check a box or to get Him to "love us." He already does.

Difficult passages of Scriptures can be a trying; when you come to them, write a few notes, or questions to come back to later. Here is where Biblehub.com or commentaries are helpful. I don't recommend



newer commentaries; I prefer older ones (i.e. Matthew Henry) that have stood the test of time and Biblical scrutiny. Also, try searching for other Scriptures on the same topic, this enables Scripture to interpret Scripture (this is called *topical chain study*).

Last of all, carve out time alone and as much as possible, without distraction. Just like slow is better, alone is better. Depending on your season of life, that may be 5 mins of quality alone time or an hour. Do what you can, with what you have in the season of life you're in. Also, while there is a place for group study, don't neglect your personal time alone with God and His Word. That's the best place to hear His voice and nurture your relationship with Him.

Three Question method:

What is the passage saying?

What is it saying to me?

How do I apply it to my life?

Journal method:

After reading a portion of Scripture, talk again to the Lord about what you've just read. Mull it over and then write whatever is on your heart. The point is to get the Word inside you, kneaded into you, and to hear His still small voice. (His voice never contradicts/always aligns with His Word).