

An open Bible with a pair of glasses resting on it. The Bible is open to a page with text, and the glasses are positioned over the text. The background is a dark, textured surface.

Effective Bible Reading

2 Timothy 2.15

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Reasons For Reading

- Read in order to increase your faith
 - Romans 10.17
- Read in order to gain understanding
 - Ephesians 3.4
- Read in order to become more like Christ
 - Ephesians 4.10-13

Effective Bible Reading

2 Timothy 2.15

Logistics of Effective Bible Reading

- Devote time
 - Be consistent
- Find a place
 - Free from distractions
 - Comfortable but not too comfortable
- Get a Bible
 - One that is reliable and easy for you to read
 - One that you're willing to mark in
- Get a notebook

Effective Bible Reading

2 Timothy 2.15

Nuts and Bolts of Effective Bible Reading

- Read – Observed (What does it say?)
 - Read passage several times taking note of any observations or questions.
 - Mark people, places, time references & key words/phrases.
- Recognize – Interpret (What does it mean?)
 - Answer questions from step one.
 - Determine the author's or speaker's intent.
- Reflect – Apply (How does it apply?)
 - Look in the mirror of the word and see what improvements can be made in your life.
 - Take steps to apply what you've read.

John 15

...you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. 17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

18 "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. 21 But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. 22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. 23 Whoever hates me hates my Father also. 24 If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. 25 But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.'

26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. 27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

John 16

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"I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. 2 They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. 3 And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. 4 But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

"I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. 5 But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; 10 concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; 11 concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

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Read - Observe

• Observations:

- Jesus foretold that persecution would come.
- Jesus was going away.
- Jesus promised a helper.
- The Spirit would guide into all truth.

• Questions:

- To whom was Jesus talking?
- What "things" had Jesus been saying?
- Who is the Helper?
- Why was He coming?

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John 15

Mark Key Persons

...you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. 17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

18 "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. 21 But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. 22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. 23 Whoever hates me hates my Father also. 24 If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have hated both me and my Father. 25 But the word that is written in the prophets must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.'

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Recognize - Interpret

- Answers to Questions:
 - Jesus was talking to those who had been with Him from the beginning, namely - the apostles.
 - Jesus was talking about persecution, His departure, and the coming of the Helper.
 - The Helper is the Spirit of truth.
 - The Helper was coming to guide the apostles into all truth and to bear witness to Christ.
- Jesus' intention was to encourage His disciples before His departure.

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Reflect - Apply

- If the apostles have been guided into all truth by the Holy Spirit then:
 - I can trust that their writings are inspired.
 - I should heed what they wrote.
 - I should read my bible that I might know the truth.
- If both Jesus and the apostles were persecuted for being different then:
 - It is likely that I will be persecuted also if I'm living as I ought to.
 - I need to prepare myself for persecution.