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| **Knowing**  Read. Read. Read. Over and over and over again!  Write basic facts and summarize the verse/passage.  Answer the four “Ws” –  Who – who is the author, who is being written to, who is being written about  What – is the main idea, what is important, what is happening  When – when was this written, when is the action taking place,  Where – where was it written, where is it taking place  Make an outline or timeline (sequencing)  Write down repeated words/themes.  Identify key verses or words. | **Growing**  Read. Again!  Put yourself in the place of the author and/or recipients of the message. Imagine you were one of the characters in the passage. Think of how you would feel, what you might say/do/think.  Think of books or movies (non-fiction and fiction) that demonstrate the theme or events. Think of sons that express the themes or talk about the people (even children’s songs!)  Choose verses to meditate on and memorize. Write them on cards and place them around the house, on your car dash, in your pocket…  Turn the passage into a prayer… write it out and personalize it. Use your name and give specific reference to your life. Go to your prayer closer and say the prayer out loud.  Re-write, paraphrase it in contemporary terms. What would this look like if it were a facebook post?  Evaluate yourself and answer these questions:  Is there any SIN I need to confess? What PROMISES can I claim?  What EXAMPLE should I follow? What COMMANDS are given?  How can I give THANKS? How can this change my life?  Make an action plan with specific ways to use what you have learned in your daily life. |
| **Understanding**  Read the verse/passage again…and again….  Digging deeper, breaking it down.  Look for cause and effect relationships  Is there significance to the sequence or order or words/events?  How does verse/passage fit in with the surrounding verses, chapter, and the entire book?  Find other sources that explain and discuss the verse/passage. Review them critically, always using the Bible as the ultimate source for truth!  Identify, research any symbolism. Look up meanings of unfamiliar words. List synonyms/antonyms of repeat words or themes.Research the original Greek/Hebrew words of important words/phrases.  Make a graph, venn diagram, word web, flow chart, or any other visual organizer.  Identify similarities/differences of elements, people, or events within the passage.  Ask yourself WHY? WHY did the author write this? Why did he put the ideas in the order they are in? WHY is this important?  History sometimes repeats itself…are there any historical events that parallel this verse/passage? | **Sharing**  Think of someone you know that can relate to the verse/passage. Call them or write them a letter to encourage them – or to thank them if they impacted you in a positive way.  Make an original “creation” which expresses what you have learned – draw a picture, write a poem, design a craft…and show it or give it as a gift to someone! Include a note that explains why you made it.  Is there a way you can be involved in a group or organization which is connected with the topic you studied?  Make a point to share this with someone – and soon! Start in your home – spouse, children, parents, siblings…  Use your facebook, twitter, blog spaces to talk about what you learned.  If you identified any sins or temptations you are struggling with, ask someone to help you be accountable in these areas. |

This is a tool you can use when studying and meditating on God’s word.

Start with the Knowing box (top left). Do the Understanding (bottom left) second. Next, make Connecting (top right). Then finish with Growing (bottom right).

Don’t get “boxed in”! You do not have to do every suggestion in each box. Choose one or several as they fit with what you are studying. Sometimes as you see an observation or interpretation, it will reveal a connection and an application. Write down these “aha” moments as they come to you! You may end up bouncing back and forth between the “boxes”.The most important part of this process is the Growing.

Also, don’t feel like you have to finish all four elements in one session. You may spend several sessions on just one step! Let the Holy Spirit be your guide in this journey!

Write, write, write. Keeping a journal helps in retention.

Pray, pray, pray. Pray before you start, while you are reading, and when you are finished. God is the Author, our Teacher, a Counselor, and the Standard!

When you have finished all four steps, it can be helpful and eye-opening to start over with a blank paper and do the steps again. God is amazing and will reveal insights that you didn’t see before!