

How to read the Bible one-to-one



**Two simple frameworks
for Bible reading**

1) The Swedish method

Use the following pictures to guide you as you read the passage.



A light-bulb: This should be something that shines out from the passage – whatever impacts you most or draws most attention.



A question mark: Anything that is difficult to understand in the passage, or a question you'd like to ask the writer or the people involved



A thinking man: A personal application for your life

- Write down at least one thing and no more than three under each category
- Allow 5-10 minutes to read the passage and write down your thoughts (unless you have prepared in advance)
- Share and discuss your answers together
- Pray for one another

2) The COMA method

4 useful headings to use with any Bible passage

CONTEXT

- **What sort of writing is this? (e.g. a letter, narrative, poetry)**
- **Where does this passage fit in the overall Bible story? What has just happened before this point? What is about to happen?**
- **What did we look at last time? Remind one another of what has already happened in this Bible book...**

OBSERVATION

- **Look at the detail of the passage. What stands out for you – e.g. about God, Jesus, humanity?**
- **Look for key words, repeated words/phrases, surprises...**
- **What does this passage say – and how does it say it?**

MEANING

- **What does this passage tell us about God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) – who he is, what he has done, and what it means to love and trust him?**
- **What does this passage tell us about ourselves/humanity?**
- **How does this passage relate to Jesus?**

APPLICATION

- **How does this passage encourage or challenge me? How should it change the way I think, feel or live?**
- **How will this passage grow my love for God and my love for my neighbour?**