

Basic Scripture Study Strategies

In addition to seeking spiritual guidance through prayer, you can use some of the following scripture study strategies to “feast upon the words of Christ” (2 Nephi 32:3) and strengthen your ability to receive inspired insights and revelation for your life.

Ask Questions

Uncover deeper meaning in a verse of scripture by asking questions that help you think more deeply about what it teaches. For example, you could ask “Why is this account included in the scriptures? What does Heavenly Father want me to learn from this?”

Use Study Helps

Use the footnotes, the Topical Guide, the Bible Dictionary, and the Guide to the Scriptures to gain insights into the verses you read. You might also consider referring to seminary and institute manuals.

Liken

As you read, consider how scripture accounts and teachings apply in your life. For example, how does Noah’s experience inspire me to live righteously in a wicked world?

Search

Search the scriptures for meaningful words and phrases, answers to questions you have, and insights about gospel principles.

Mark Meaningful Passages

When a word or phrase in the scriptures impresses you, mark it.

Keep a Journal

Keep a journal of the insights, feelings, and impressions you receive as you study the scriptures.

What other scripture study strategies have been helpful to you in your personal study?

Family Study Ideas

In addition to seeking spiritual guidance through prayer, families can use some of the following ideas to enhance their family scripture study.

Read Together

Allow family members to take turns reading aloud one or more verses from the scriptures. Invite family members to share insights about those verses.

Share Meaningful Scriptures

Give family members time to share scripture passages they have found that are particularly meaningful to them. They might share passages they have found in their personal scripture study and in family scripture study.

Weekly Scripture List

As a family, choose several verses that you would like to discuss during the coming week. Write the references for these scriptures in a list that all family members can see regularly.

Memorize Scriptures

Select a scripture passage that has meaning to your family, and invite everyone to memorize it. Discuss why the passage is meaningful to you.

Scripture Mastery

In the four years of seminary, youth learn 100 key passages called scripture mastery passages. You can find a list of these passages on LDS.org. Cut 100 small pieces of paper, and write a reference for a scripture mastery passage on each piece. Each night, ask a family member to choose one of the passages. Read it together and discuss it.

Share Object Lessons

Find objects that relate to scriptures you are reading as a family. Invite family members to talk about how each object relates to the teachings in the scriptures.

Sing a Hymn

Find a hymn that helps you understand more about the scriptures you are reading. Sing it together.

What other ideas has your family found helpful in your family scripture study?