

## **WEEK ONE: The Devotional Method**

In the Devotional (or Disciple-Making) Method of Bible study: a passage of the Bible, large or small, is read and meditated upon, until the Holy Spirit guides you to truths/lessons that can become applications of the passage into your life in a way that is personal, practical, possible and measurable.

It is the simplest, and least costly in terms of time, of all the Bible study methods in this outline.

The goal is to learn to find and apply truths as we: Take the Bible seriously, and DO what it says to do.

The three parts of this method are: **Summary-Lessons-Application**

### **1.1 - Tools**

1.1.1 - Bible

1.1.2 - Some type of Journal

### **1.2 - Hints**

1.2.1 - This method is usually best started in partnership with someone who asks how you are doing, and shows how they are doing in the study. That is what makes this the perfect Discipleship/Nurturing Tool.

1.2.2 - This Method should slowly become a habit that is central to your quiet times with the Lord;

1.2.3 - This method requires only a small investment of time; and can be done as you travel or wait for life to catch up to you;

1.2.4 - This method, over an extended period, produces: genuine spiritual growth, measurably encouraging progress, and tools to either teach or personally nurture others (as you show them how the Lord has been teaching you).

1.2.5 - This method usually doesn't work without some type of written journal (book, iPhone Notes, blog, etc.), plus to be used in discipleship/nurturing, the best tool is showing what you do so the one you share with can actually understand, ask questions and see you doing what you are teaching.

### **1.3 - Steps**

Step 1 - Pick a FAMILIAR part of the Bible you already enjoy, have read and understand (like the Psalms, Epistles, or Gospels).

Step 2 - Pray FIRST for understanding and guidance as you apply the passage into your life.

Step 3 - Then READ the verse(s) you have chosen for your study

Step 4 - As you read, THINK about truths or lessons that are in the passage (maybe even underline a phrase, circle words that JUMP out as you read).

Step 5 - Next, WRITE a brief summary of what the passage was about (Psalm 23 is by David about how watching sheep taught him about the Lord).

Step 6 -Then, write down the truths/lessons that YOU thought of as you read (David uses personal pronouns. David points out these areas the Lord works on in his life: leads me, feeds me, etc.).

Step 7 -Finally, EARNESTLY asking the Lord for guidance, write out a personal application for you to make from the passage into your daily life. Often, this can be written as a prayer, asking the Lord to help you specifically do what you just read (Lord, I want to follow You, make me rest and stop being anxious, etc.).

Step 8 - LOOK for a verse over the week (or month) of your devotional studies, that you can Memorize as a part of your own personal arsenal of weaponry for the Spirit to use as a Sword in your life.

Step 9 - PLAN a weekly Assessment of your devotional journal to see if you have actually started implementing those personal applications.