

# READING THE BIBLE WITH LITERACY

## ANALYTICAL READING

### Step One: Survey

1. Read the title, section headings, and first and last verses of each chapter. This should take about fifteen-to-thirty minutes.
2. Then leaf through the book. Scan chapters that seem interesting. Notice headings.

### Step Two: Guiding Questions

As we read, it's important to learn how to interact with the author's big ideas so we can understand them. When we read others' ideas, we may leave with personal insights. However, effective reading is focused on the author stimulating us by their ideas, insights, and arguments. The following four questions can help you interact with the author's ideas.

1. What is the book about? What's the main point, the key theme, and subject matter?
2. What are the author's main ideas? Arguments? What problem is the author trying to solve?
3. How does the author support his main ideas and arguments?
4. What difference do the author's ideas make? What are the implications of the work?

### Step Three: Along with Way

As we read, it's helpful to utilize *writing* to summarize, highlight, and record. The best way to do this is to read with a pen and journal so you can take notes.

1. Look for the author's key words/ideas (what's repeated), sentences, ideas, and main points.
2. Underline/highlight the sentence that captures the author's main idea or argument.
3. Underline/highlight how the author explains or expands his main idea or argument.
4. Write questions, insights, and objections in the margin.
5. When you're done with a chapter, write your own *basic* outline of the chapter.

When you're done with the first three steps, you should understand the author and be able to:

1. Classify: what kind of book is this and what's the subject matter?
2. Summarize: In a sentence or two, state what the whole book is about.
3. Outline: Describe the major points, arguments, questions and show relationships of material.
4. Define: Define the problems the author is trying to solve.

### Step Four: Assess

In the final step, assess and reflect on the author's work. This step is about what you think, how you were impacted, and what you might do as a result. Here are helpful questions.

1. What did you learn? What new framework, argument, perspective got your attention?
2. What new information did you get? New interpretations? New clarity?
3. What is personally challenging or affirming? What confirms or contradicts your positions?
4. What questions were raised for you?