

GETTING STARTED

LEARNING STYLES

Your Devo Style

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God made our senses and knows that, for learning, each person depends more on one sense than on the others; you may learn best by hearing. God also gave us different ways of acting and interacting; you may learn best when you study with another person. If you understand your learning style, it will be easier to learn more about God's word.

What's Your Style?

- **Visual learners** remember what they see. They like to read and to look at maps, pictures, cartoons, and diagrams.
- **Auditory learners** remember sounds. They learn best by listening, asking questions, reading aloud, debating, and studying with music.
- **Tactile learners** use the sense of touch. They take notes or highlight material and learn by creating things that are related to a lesson.
- **Energetic learners** need movement. They learn best if they exercise while studying, use sign language, and act out stories.
- **Deep thinkers** learn from logic and reflection. They gather all the facts and then make connections among them.
- **Social learners** rely on language and relationships. They learn best in small groups and by telling stories, studying the origins and meanings of words, and understanding people and places.

Study the Bible

Once you've determined your learning style, try some of the suggestions for studying the Bible:

Visual Learning

- Read; then doodle as you reflect.
- Close your eyes and picture what happens in the Bible story.
- Use a Bible with pictures, maps, charts, and diagrams.
- Use reference books and memory verse flash cards.

Auditory Learning

- Read aloud or listen as another person reads aloud.
- Listen to music or sounds that capture the mood of the passage.
- Listen to the Bible on tape.
- Talk to someone else about the Bible passages you are studying.

Tactile Learning

- Take notes or use colored highlighters. Write down your ideas in a journal.

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- If possible, touch objects similar to ones described in the passage.
- Draw or create the scene described in scripture.
- Light a scented candle while studying.

Energetic Learning

- Act out the passage.
- Relate the passage to a past experience.
- Teach the scripture to others.
- Read; then exercise while reflecting on the words.

Deep Thinking

- Ask questions; then search for the answers.
- Take note of the five Ws: Who? What? When? Where? Why?
- Use a study Bible and reference books.
- Connect information from one passage of scripture to another.

Social Learning

- Check out how people in the Bible related to one another.
- Study the character trails of people in the passage.
- Discuss the passage with a friend or with a study group.
- Do a word study on key words from the passage.

Learning from Jesus

Jesus understood the people he taught. Identify the learning styles he used in each of these passages:

- Jesus spoke the Beatitudes. Read **Matthew 5:1-12**.
- Jesus used a coin to teach a lesson. Read **Matthew 22:15-22**.
- Jesus said, "Show me." Read **Luke 20:21-25**.
- Jesus gave the people bread. Read **John 6:1-14**.
- Jesus taught while he was walking with Jairus. Read **Mark 5:22-24, 35-43**.
- Jesus told the parable of the sower; then he explained its meaning. Read **Matthew 13:3-8, 18-23**.
- Jesus taught during meals. Read **Luke 7:36-50** and **Mark 14:17-25**.

Dig Deeper

Read **Acts 2:41-47**. Notice how early Christians combined elements of all the learning styles.

What your devo style? How can you change your devo time to include something that will help you to better understand the Bible?