

The acronym **HEAR** stands for **Highlight, Explain, Apply, and Respond**. The HEAR Bible study method encourages reading the Bible with a life-transforming purpose to understand and respond to God's Word. Executing these four steps helps provide an atmosphere to hear God speak. Choose a scripture, set a time, and be expectant to H.E.A.R. from God.

Start with Prayer

Before reading the scripture, pause and ask God to speak to you to provide understanding. It is important that we seek God's guidance in understanding His Word. "Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law (Word)" (Ps. 119:18).

H - Highlight

After praying, open your notebook and write the letter "H" at the top left-hand corner for **HIGHLIGHT**. Remember to read with a purpose. As you read, look for repeating words or phrases that are highlighted in the text. After reading the passage, **HIGHLIGHT** a key verse that stuck out to you by copying it under the letter "H". Write out the following:

Highlight the theme or big idea of the passage.

What are repeating words or phrases you see in the passage?

What was your Highlight verse? Copy it down.

E - Explain

Next, write the letter "E" for **EXPLAIN**. The goal is to **EXPLAIN** what the text says about God and man. As you read be looking for details that explain attributes, characteristics or behaviors of God the Father, God the Son, God the Spirit as well as God's People and Unbelievers.

What does the passage say about God (the Father, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit)?

What does the passage say about Man (God's People or Unbelievers)?

A - Apply

Next, write the letter "A" for **APPLY**. The apply step is the heart of the process. Our desire is not to only gain more head knowledge, but to take what God is showing us and apply it to our lives. Use questions like the ones below to help you write out what the scripture is calling you to do.

Is there an example to follow?

Is there a sin to avoid?

Is there a command to obey?

R - Respond

Finally, write the letter "R" for **RESPOND**. For your response, take the Apply section and make it a concrete action. Your Response should be specific, measurable, relevant to the text and time oriented. Your response can also include writing out a prayer to God. For example, if your specific action is to pray for your neighbor every morning at 6am, you may ask God to help you see the needs of your neighbor and have compassion for them.

