



# Meeting God through Reading Scripture

Prepared by the Reverend Brent Anderson

“Our goal in reading the Bible is not to *learn about* God. Our goal in reading the Bible is to *know* God—to enter into an ever-deepening relationship with God through Christ.”

## ✝ GATHER

Gather the following tools: **notebook** or **journal**, **pen**, **candle**, **Study Bible**, and a copy of the **Doubleday Pocket Bible Guide** or another resource containing the Revised Common Lectionary. A **tablet** or **computer** can also be helpful as there are numerous valuable resources on the internet.

## ✝ PREPARE

Open your journal or notebook and write the date for the following Sunday at the top of the page along with the references to the assigned lectionary scripture passages. I suggest using two pages each week—one page for the Old Testament, Psalm and Epistle readings and one page for the Gospel reading. This is where you will write your questions, your reflections and your insights.

## ✝ PRAY

Give yourself the time and space to quiet yourself down—to become still, relinquish your agenda, and acknowledge the presence of God. Find a quiet place, set apart, where you can remain uninterrupted. Light a candle as a symbol of God’s presence—to remind yourself that you are dedicating

this time to God and that God calls you to be a light to the world. And then open your time together with God and the scriptures in prayer. Prayerfully ask God to meet you and speak to you through these scriptures.

***“God be present with me now as I dedicate this time to you. Open my heart and my mind—make me attentive to your voice. Speak to me through these words of scripture so that I can know you better and in knowing you, respond by living according to your Word. Help me to reflect your light and your love in this world through Christ our Lord. Amen.”***

## ✝ READ

Read through each of the scripture readings one at a time. Read them slowly, meditatively, and expectantly. The goal is not to get through as much scripture as possible in the fastest time possible. The goal is to let the words of scripture to dwell inside of you—to let them speak to your heart and mind.

What comes to your mind as you read them? What do you notice? Is there anything that bothers you, puzzles you, inspires you, or surprises you?

Ask: ***“God, what are you trying to say to me in this passage?”***

## ✝ RECORD

Write down the things that you notice in your notebook. Write down any questions you have or any insights you gain. Do this for each of the four assigned readings. Beyond the typical Who, What, Where, When, Why and How questions, consider answering the following:

- ◆ ***What does this passage say about God?***
- ◆ ***What does this passage say about humanity?***
- ◆ ***What does this passage say about our relationship with God?***
- ◆ ***What does this passage say about our relationship with the world?***

Also consider the question:

- ◆ ***God, how are you asking me to live my life differently today in response to your Word?***

## ✝ PRAY

Relax and enjoy being in God’s presence for a few moments. Then close your time in prayer.

“What we need and seek in the Bible is not the Bible, but God. Scripture is a place where God meets us as the living, loving, saving God who is active in the world. Through Scripture, God draws us in and transforms us in ways beyond our imagination.”