Studying the Bible

All Christians ought to read the Bible devotionally, however, leaders also need to know how to study the Bible.

**1) Pray** - Invite the Holy Spirit to be present while your study.

**2) Observation - What does it say?**

* Pick a suitable translation
* Check the context of the passage (what comes before and after)
* Identify any structural elements present in the text.
* Ask heaps of questions - what does this mean? How? Why did the author choose this word, etc..

The more time you spend observing what the text is saying, the less time it will take to interpret what it could mean.

**3) Interpretation - What does it mean?**

* Identify your key questions.
* Find possible answers - Study Bible, Blue Letter Bible, Commentaries.
* Try to find the key message of the passage. What message did the original author intend for the original audience?

Can a passage have multiple meanings?

**4) Application - So what?**

* How does the message of the passage connect with someone living in Australia today?
* Direct application or timeless truth/principle?
* If the original message was meant for encouragement then it should encourage people today. If the original message was meant to challenge then it should challenge people today.