

## REACT

Each page of this journal is divided into sections following a very simple plan called, REACT. This method has been adapted from the one found in Ole Hallesby's book, "Prayer." Hallesby's REACT acronym is for Review, Examine, Apply, Compare, Think. Since we will be encountering God's Word for the purpose of making disciples the acronym has been slightly altered. The elements are these: Read, Examine, Apply Compare, Think/Train. Below is an explanation for each element.

## READ

Each day, five days per week, passages of scripture are assigned. The reading will take five to ten minutes to complete. Read the passage of scripture from a translation that is easy to read and understand. Never take for granted that you have God's Word available to you and that it is written in a language that you can read. We have many early followers to thank for having the Bible in a language that we can read and understand. Some of those leaders are John Wycliffe, John Hus, Johann Gutenberg, Erasmus, William Tyndale, Martin Luther, Thomas Cranmer, John Knox, and John Bunyan. Some of these were threatened, thrown in jail, and beaten as they refused to stop their efforts to get the Word of God in a language that could be read and understood by common people like me. Try reading the passage out loud.

## EXAMINE

Read the passage several times. Look at the section of verses before and after the passage you are reading to get a feel for the whole. Define words for clarity. If you are not sure what a word means—look it up. Keep an English dictionary close by. Pay particular attention to simple truthful statements. Underline them, write them down, and memorize as many as you can. Don't get hung up on things that you don't understand. Make a note in your journal or in your Bible of things that you want to look up later or of things that you want to ask someone else about. If it's not important enough to write down, it's probably not very important. Digging deeper is good unless the deeper digging causes you to miss the obvious teaching of a passage. Don't spend time and energy trying to make an obscure passage clear because you might just miss the obvious.

## APPLY

After you have written a few statements about a passage ask yourself a few penetrating questions like these:

- "Do I believe this simple Truth?"
- "Does my life accurately reflect this simple Truth?"
- "Does something in my life need to change as a result of my encounter with this Truth?"
- "How can this Truth inform my prayer life?"

**COMPARE**

As you encounter Truth from God's Word, pay attention to what you see emerging from the culture, from statements made by others, and from what you observe. Do you find affirmation from the culture for what you have encountered in God's Word or do you find the opposite in the culture for what you have encountered in the Word of God? Comparing Truth to culture helps you learn what God wants to teach you.

**THINK/TRAIN/TELL**

Make a conscious decision to reflect on this truth. Keep thinking about this truth until you see this truth breaking through your life as naturally as breathing. God designs your encounters with His truth in mind. God desires for your life to be molded and shaped by His Truth so that he can use you to share the Gospel with someone who has not yet met Jesus. Discipleship involves sharing the Gospel otherwise it is not discipleship. God shapes us in order to use us to share the good news about what Jesus has done for you and what Jesus wants to do in the lives of those around you. Look for opportunities to share or teach what you have learned in God's Word to someone God brings to you.

**WHY THIS IS SO IMPORTANT**

Soon after Jesus called His first disciples He made two descriptive and astonishing statements of those men, Peter, Andrew, James and John. These statements are recorded in Matthew 5:13-14. Jesus said, "you are the salt of the earth" and "you are the light of the world." Can you believe this? Only a few days before, these same men were fishermen. How can this be? How could Jesus call uneducated, inexperienced, and untrained fishermen "the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world?" Moreover, Jesus used this very same title referring to Himself. (John 8:12) The answer is rather simple. Jesus intended for them to incorporate what they had seen Him do and what they had heard Him say into their lives and to be to a watching world who He was to them. That said, you do not have to reach some mysterious point of maturity in order for it to be said of you that you are salt and light.

Jesus, unlike anyone else, knew their thoughts and He knew what was in their hearts. (Luke 9:47, Mark 2:8, Luke 5:22) Jesus continually examined the disciples to see if they were incorporating into their lives the things they saw Him do and the things they heard Him say. The same is true for present day disciples of Jesus. This is why it is so important to read, examine, apply, compare, and train. This journal is designed to assist you to daily and intentionally incorporate into your life the Word of God. To not incorporate His Word into our lives is to announce that we do not need Him or that we do not belong to Him. Anyone can increase knowledge of Bible facts. But the genuine disciples of Jesus are those who do the hard work, the difficult task, of incorporating what they have learned into their lives.