

# DANIEL

Bible Study Tools

Dayton Women in the Word

## Prayer

- Invite the Lord to work in you during your study. Pray before, during and after your study time. Pray for help when you get stuck, or with thanksgiving when you read something particularly meaningful to you. Ask God questions. Lay your study at His feet.

## Reading

- We recommend repetitive reading; that is, reading the same passage multiple times as you study it. This allows you to become very familiar with the content of the passage. You can also listen to the passage repetitively with an audio bible app.

## Taking Notes (Annotation)

- You may want to print out a double-spaced copy of the text to make notes on. Here are some examples of things to note as you read:
  - Repeated words, phrases and ideas
  - Specific attributes of God
  - Promises of God
  - Lists or several points in a row
  - Words, phrases or ideas you don't understand- to revisit later
  - Key transition words such as "if/then," "likewise," "but," "because," or "in the same way." Draw an arrow to connect from one idea to the other.
  - Definitions of words you don't know – look them up in an English dictionary or concordance and write their definitions in your notes
  - Any questions you have

## Outlining

- An outline is an ordered list of the main topics and supporting ideas in a text. This can be as simple or as complex as the Spirit leads, and there's no "right way" to do it. You may use the headings in your bible for help, but don't feel the need to follow them. Outline in a way that feels natural to you and helps you understand the passage more fully. Feel free to revise as you get a deeper understanding of the text.

## Looking Up Cross References

- Cross references are the small letters following the words in a study bible that match up with the list of references in your margins. They point us to other relevant scriptures related to our text. If you don't have a study bible, you can find them by looking up the passage online or using the free Crossway Bible Study app. **You do not need to look them all up!** Ask the Lord to focus you in on areas that you need a fuller understanding and follow that trail.

## Comparing Translations

- Read a different translation of the bible. Some suggestions include the English Standard Version (ESV), New International Version (NIV), New American Standard Version (NASV), New King James Version (NKJV), and Revised Standard Version (RSV). Try to stay away from paraphrases like the New Living Translation (NLT) and the Message (MSG), which are commentaries and not direct translations. You can find all of these on the YouVersion app or biblegateway.com.

## Paraphrasing

- To paraphrase is to rewrite a passage in your own words. Take your time with this, and utilize the previous tools to get a fuller understanding of what the text is saying before you try to paraphrase. There is no right way to paraphrase. Just do your best to grasp what the author is trying to say and put it into your own words. It is often helpful to think about how you would explain the passage to a child or someone who is not familiar with the Bible.

\*All of these study tools are referenced in Jen Wilkin's book, *Women of the Word*.