

AT HOME IN THE WORD

PRACTICE PDF // RESPONDING TO THE TEXT

WHY RESPOND TO THE TEXT?

Answering a few key questions about our reading helps us to see if we are really learning anything. It forces us to describe what we've read and apply it to our lives. It keeps our focus on God first, then the original hearers, then ourselves.

WHEN DO I DO IT?

You can answer these questions anytime throughout your study. We recommend doing so at the end of each chapter or major section, or at the end of a whole book.

HOW DO I DO IT?

You'll prayerfully answer three questions:

- **What does it say?** (Comprehension)
 - Think critically here and read for details. What are the facts? What are the major events or truths being communicated?
 - Some additional questions you could ask are:
 - What are the main points?
 - What are some key words?
 - How could this passage be summarized in one sentence?
 - What does this passage say about God?
 - *Helpful tools:* Context, Annotation, Looking Up Definitions, Comparing Translations, Outlining

- **What does it mean?** (Interpretation)
 - Take what you know about the context and intent of the author and start thinking about the “why” behind the passage. (Try to answer this on our own before reading commentary.)
 - Some additional questions you could ask are:
 - What was the author trying to communicate?
 - What did the intended audience need to hear?
 - Are there any topics/words/phrases that you do not understand or wish to understand further?
 - Are there any interesting cross references that you can find?
 - Does looking at this passage in different Bible translations change its meaning or significance for you?
 - *Helpful tools:* Cross Referencing, Paraphrasing

- **How might it change me?** (Application)
 - What do you do now? How can you live out the truths you find in the text?
 - Some additional questions you could ask are:
 - What encouragement can I gain from this passage?
 - What about this passage convicts or challenges me?
 - What is one practical application step I can take this week to put this truth to work in my life?
 - Keep God as the focus in this question. What truths have you learned about God's character and your identity? What does a response of obedience look like? You can also try thinking about how the text speaks to specific areas of struggle in your life that the Lord is working in.

PRACTICE // RESPONDING TO THE TEXT

Choose a passage of Scripture that you're currently studying and answer the three response questions about that passage. Alternatively, you can follow the prompt on the following page.

Read the whole book of Ruth one time through. Return to Ruth 1, and use the study tools on that chapter specifically. Explore the context, take notes, look up definitions, make an outline- whatever tools are most helpful to you. When you feel you have a good grasp of the chapter, answer the three questions below for Ruth 1:

What does it say?

What does it mean?

How might it change me?

*This worksheet is **a companion to the Responding to the Text video** in Dayton Women in the Word's At Home in the Word Video Series. Please watch the video for a more in-depth discussion about responding to the text in Bible study.*