



"The time will come when no man nor woman will be able to endure on borrowed light. Each will have to be guided by the light within himself."

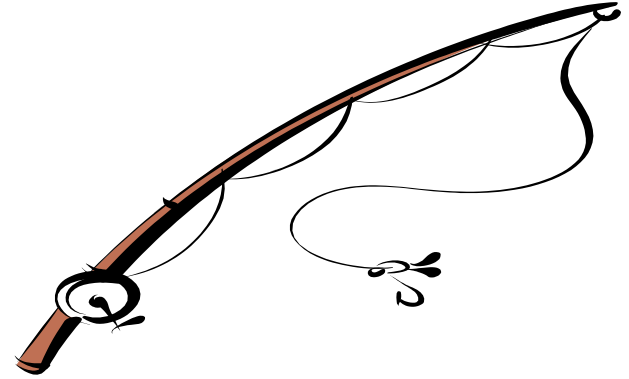
(Life of Heber C. Kimball, pp. 449-50)



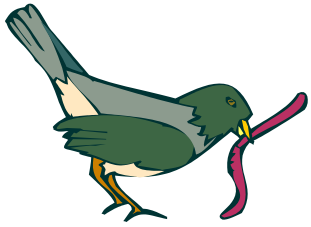
Elder Richard G. Scott

Ensign, Nov '93, p.86

**“Principles are
concentrated
truths packaged
for application
to a wide
variety of
circumstances.”**



“As gospel instructors, you and I are not in the business of distributing fish; rather, our work is to help individuals learn to ‘fish’ and to become spiritually self-reliant. This important objective is best accomplished as we encourage and facilitate learners acting in accordance with correct principles—as we encourage them to learn by doing and by faith.”



Digging for Worms

“It was on a summer day early in the morning. I was standing near the window. The curtains obstructed me from two little creatures out in the garden. One was a large bird, and the other a little bird obviously just out of the nest. I saw the larger bird hop out onto the lawn, then thump his feet and cock his head. He drew a big fat worm out of the lawn and came hopping back. The little bird opened its bill wide, but the big bird swallowed the worm.

“Then I saw the big bird fly up into a tree. He pecked at the bark for a little while and came back with a big bug in his mouth. The little bird opened his beak wide, but the big bird swallowed the bug. There was squawking in protest.

“The big bird flew away, and I didn’t see it again, but I watched the little bird. After a while, the little bird hopped out onto the lawn, thumped its feet, cocked its head, and pulled a big worm out of the lawn.

“God bless the good people who teach our children and our youth.

-Howard W. Hunter



“I see you sometimes reading a few verses, stopping to ponder them, carefully reading the verses again, and as you think about what they mean, praying for understanding, asking questions in your mind, waiting for spiritual impressions, and writing down the impressions and insights that come so you can remember and learn more.”

-Elder D. Todd Christofferson



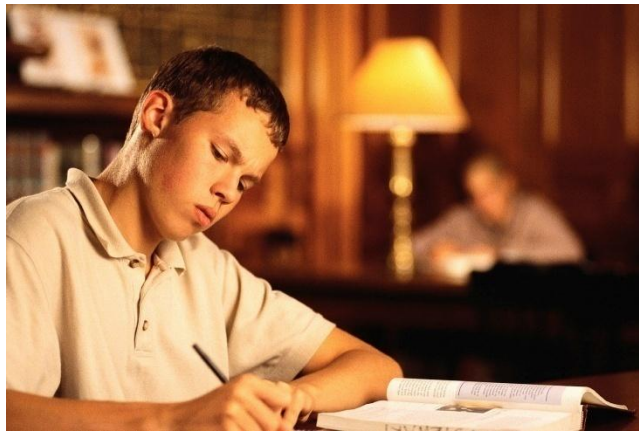
“Teach your students to read more slowly and more carefully and with more questions in mind... ponder, to examine every word, every scriptural gem. Teach them to hold it up to the light and then turn it, look and see what’s reflected and refracted there. On a given day with a given need, such an examination may unearth a treasure hidden in a field, a pearl of great price, a pearl beyond price.

-Jeffery R. Holland



**“Help your students find the
diamonds of truth that must be
carefully mined from the pages of
(scripture).”**

Elder Richard G. Scott *CES Symposium*, 1987 p.1



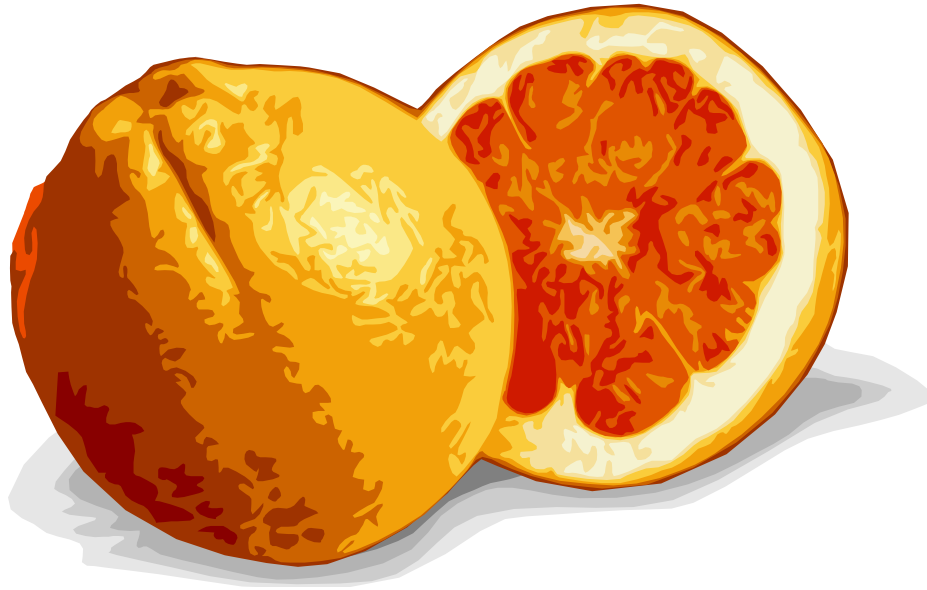
Elder Richard G. Scott taught, ‘Knowledge carefully recorded is knowledge available in time of need. Spiritually sensitive information should be kept in a sacred place that communicates to the Lord how you treasure it. This practice enhances the likelihood of your receiving further light’
(‘Acquiring Spiritual Knowledge,’ *Ensign*, Nov. 1993, 86).

**“A Principle is
an enduring
truth, a law, a
rule you can
adopt to guide
you in making
decisions.”**



President Boyd K. Packer

CR, April '96, p.22



“One cannot honestly study the scriptures without learning gospel principles because the scriptures have been written to **preserve principles** for our benefit.”

-Marion G. Romney,



“Let us not treat lightly the great things we have received from the hand of the Lord! His word is one of the most valuable gifts He has given us. I urge you to recommit yourselves to a study of the scriptures. Immerse yourselves in them daily so you will have the power of the Spirit to attend you”

-President Ezra Taft Benson



“The troubles and temptations our students faced just five years ago pale in comparison with what we see now, and even more difficult times are ahead. I have felt as many of you have felt that what we have done and are doing will not be enough. We need greater power to get the gospel down into the hearts and lives of our students.”

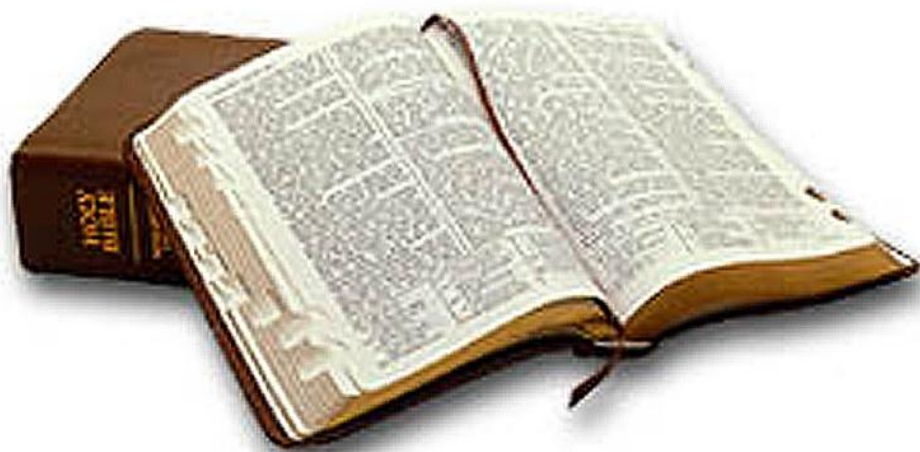


“I am grateful for emphasis on reading the scriptures. I hope that for you this will become something far more enjoyable than a duty; that, rather, it will become a love affair with the word of God. I promise you that as you read, your minds will be enlightened and your spirits will be lifted. At first it may seem tedious, but that will change into a wondrous experience with thoughts and words of things divine.”

Gordon B. Hinckley, “The Light within You,” *Ensign*, May 1995, 99



We should not be haphazard in our reading but rather develop a systematic plan for study. There are some who read to a schedule of a number of pages or a set number of chapters each day or week. This may be perfectly justifiable... but it does not constitute meaningful study. It is better to have a set amount of time to give scriptural study each day than to have a set amount of chapters to read. Sometimes we find that the study of a single verse will occupy the whole time. (Howard W. Hunter, “Reading the Scriptures,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1979, 64)



“As we seek the Spirit, our scripture reading becomes more reflective. We rediscover the virtue of slow reading. There is more reading aloud as, perhaps, the scriptures were meant to be read.”

Douglas L. Callister, “Seeking the Spirit of God,” *Ensign*, Nov 2000, 30–31



As you seek for spiritual knowledge, search for principles. Carefully separate them from the detail used to explain them. . . . It is worth great effort to organize the truth we gather to simple statements of principle.”

Elder Richard G. Scott, *Ensign*, Nov ‘93, p.86



“Often we spend great effort in trying to increase the activity levels in our stakes. We work diligently to raise the percentages of those attending sacrament meetings. We labor to get a higher percentage of our young men on missions. We strive to improve the numbers of those marrying in the temple. All of these are commendable efforts and important to the growth of the kingdom. But when individual members and families immerse themselves in the scriptures regularly and consistently, these other areas of activity will automatically come. Testimonies will increase. Commitment will be strengthened. Families will be fortified. Personal revelation will flow” (Ezra Taft Benson “The Power of the Word,” *Ensign*, May 1986, 81).



“I find that when I get casual in my relationships with divinity and when it seems that no divine ear is listening and no divine voice is speaking, that I am far, far away. If I immerse myself in the scriptures the distance narrows and the spirituality returns”

– Spencer W. Kimball

“I think that people who study the scriptures get a dimension to their life that nobody else gets and that can’t be gained in any way except by studying the scriptures.

“There’s an increase in faith and a desire to do what’s right and a feeling of inspiration and understanding that comes to people who study the gospel—meaning particularly the Standard Works—and who ponder the principles, that can’t come in any other way (in David Croft, “Spare Time’s Rare to Apostle,” *Church News*, 24 Jan. 1976, 4).



Elder Howard W. Hunter, taught, “It is that one who studies the scriptures every day accomplishes far more than one who devotes considerable time one day and then lets days go before continuing”
(Ensign, Nov. 1979, 64).

Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin explained, “The more [students] discuss what the gospel actually means in their lives, the more will be their inspiration, growth, and joy as they try to solve their personal concerns and challenges”

(“Teaching by the Spirit: A Conversation with Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin and Elder Gene R. Cook, *Ensign*, **Jan. 1989, 15**).

Elder Richard G. Scott counseled: “As you seek spiritual knowledge, search for principles. Carefully separate them from the detail used to explain them. Principles are concentrated truth, packaged for application to a wide variety of circumstances. A true principle makes decisions clear even under the most confusing and compelling circumstances. It is worth great effort to organize the truth we gather to simple statements of principle” (in Conference Report, Oct. 1993, 117; or *Ensign*, Nov. 1993, 86).

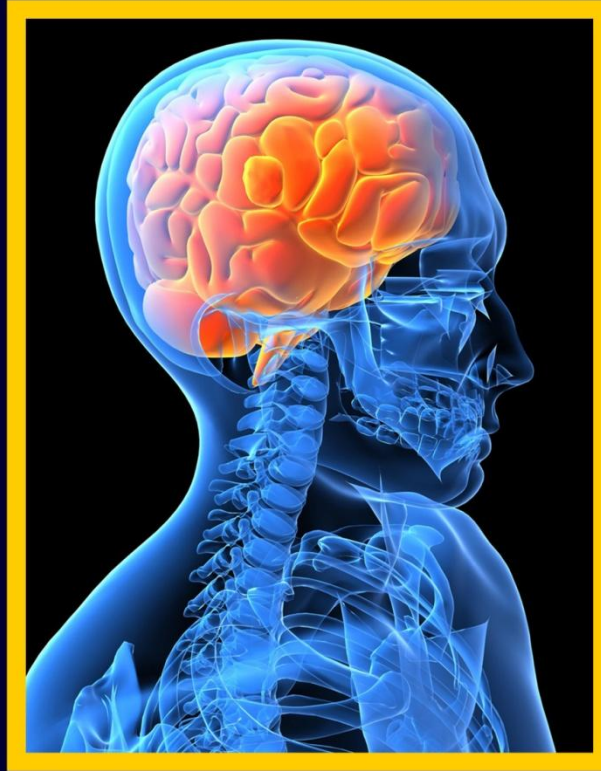
Scripture Memorization

Bishop Vaughn J. Featherstone, then a counselor in the Presiding Bishopric, taught, “When you memorize something, it becomes a part of you and can be called upon at will to give you strength when there seems to be no strength left” (“The Aaronic Priesthood Holder and Athletics,” *New Era*, Sept. 1975, 28).

Scripture Memorization

President Ezra Taft Benson stated, “I have a vision of thousands of missionaries going into the mission field with hundreds of passages memorized from the Book of Mormon so that they might feed the needs of a spiritually famished world” (in Conference Report, Oct. 1988, 5; or *Ensign*, Nov 1988, 6).

Memorize



“You don't fully understand a scripture until you memorize it. By memorizing scripture you show the Lord that you esteem His words to be of great value—and then He will be more likely to speak to you and give you more.”

—Elder Gene R. Cook

GO P.R.O.

PRAY

“There is nothing more helpful than prayer to open our understanding of the scriptures.”

—President Howard W. Hunter

RECORD

“Write down in a secure place the important things you learn from the Spirit. You will find that as you write down precious impressions, often more will come.”

—Elder Richard G. Scott

OBEY

“The effect of sincere prayer and of careful scripture study is to always feel an urging to do things.”

—Elder Henry B. Eyring



WORD SEARCH



“Ponder, to examine every word, every spiritual gem...hold it up to the light, and turn it, look and see what’s reflected and refracted there. ...Such an examination may unearth a treasure hidden in a field; a pearl of great price, a pearl beyond price.”

— Elder Jeffrey R. Holland

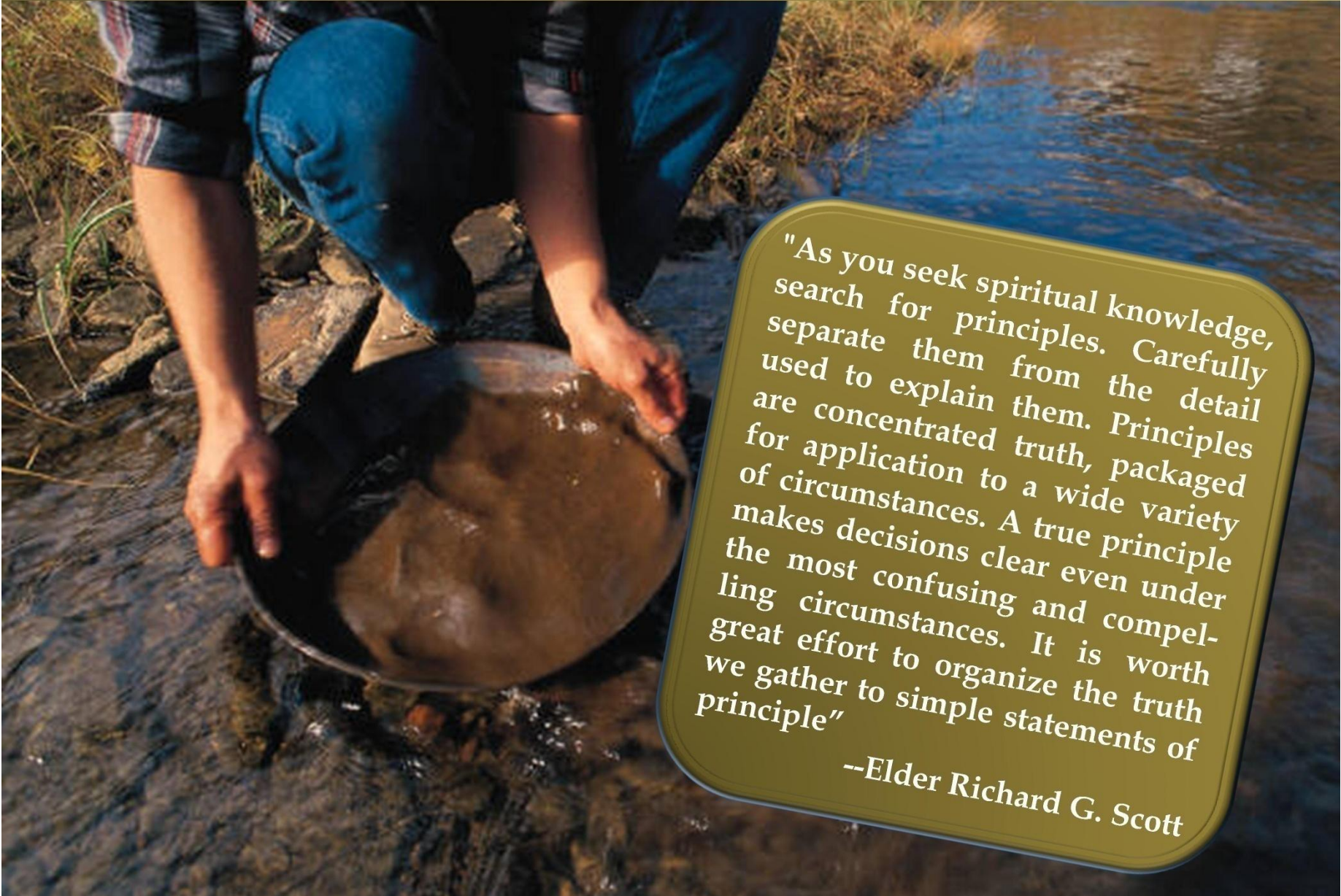


Set Amount of Time

"It is better to have a set amount of time to give to scripture study each day than to have a set amount of chapters to read. Sometimes we find that the study of a single verse will occupy the whole time."

—President Howard W. Hunter

PAN FOR GOLD

A person wearing a blue shirt and jeans is crouching by a stream, using a metal pan to sift through water and sediment. The water is clear, and the surrounding area is rocky with some dry grass.

"As you seek spiritual knowledge, search for principles. Carefully separate them from the detail used to explain them. Principles are concentrated truth, packaged for application to a wide variety of circumstances. A true principle makes decisions clear even under the most confusing and compelling circumstances. It is worth great effort to organize the truth we gather to simple statements of principle"

--Elder Richard G. Scott

ASK QUESTIONS & SEARCH FOR ANSWERS



"You will be taught more easily as you approach the scriptures if you search with a question and with a determination to act on the answer. We can receive what seems to us new truth when we go back to the same scripture with new questions."

— Elder Henry B. Eyring



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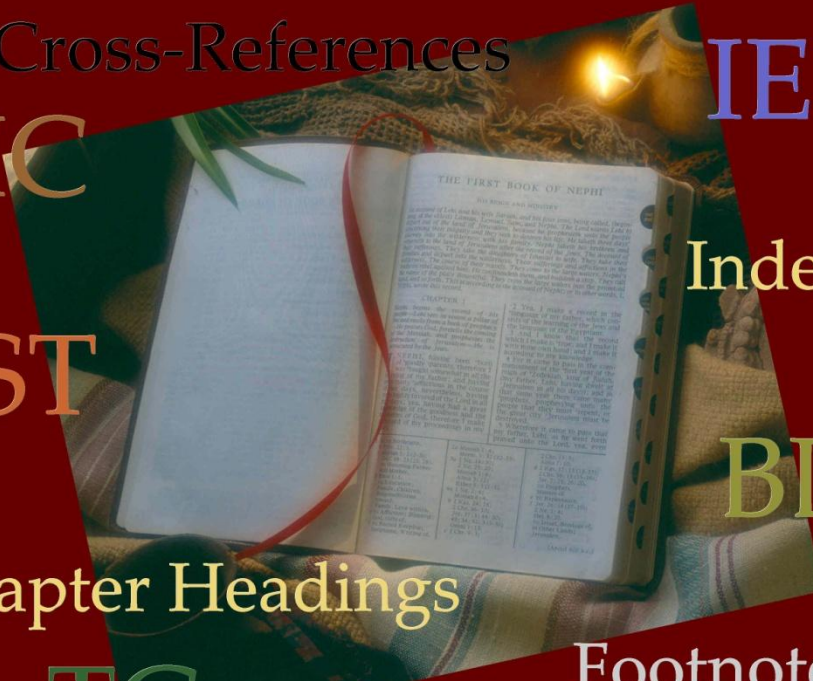
Chapter Headings

Footnotes

TG

"I have the conviction that in the generations ahead the publication of the new editions of the standard works, with all of the resource helps they now contain, will emerge as one of the most important events in the Church that we shall witness in our lifetime on the earth."

—Elder Boyd K. Packer



3 Readings



“I see you sometimes reading a few verses, stopping to ponder them, carefully reading the verses again, and as you think about what they mean, praying for understanding, asking questions in your mind, waiting for spiritual impressions, and writing down the impressions and insights that come so you can remember and learn more.”

—Elder D. Todd Christofferson

Find Your Own Grove



"If possible, set a consistent time and place to study when you can be alone and undisturbed" – Elder M. Russell Ballard

Make Your Mark



"Always have a marking pencil ready as you study. Make notations in the margins. Write cross-references. Make the scriptures yours by marking them."

—Elder M. Russell Ballard