

# **DWELLING IN THE WORD**

***Dwelling in the Word*** is a practice that focuses on slowing down the reading of a passage of Scripture, to allow space to hear and respond to God's direction and leading. Dwelling helps to promote intentionality in your time with God. It pushes for depth to recognize how Scripture can apply to your specific life, right now. It also teaches actively responding to God's Word and learning to hear God in Scripture.

**PRE-STEP: context + questions.** Look at what is happening around a passage and get a feel for the context of what you're studying-what's happening, who's involved, any significant shifts up until this particular passage. Now would also be a good time to write down any questions you have about the passage, like words you don't understand or just things you are curious about. If you need to, ask someone you trust to help you figure out what's going on in a passage before you begin.

## **STEP ONE: READ THROUGH THE PASSAGE A FIRST TIME**

***question to ask | WHAT stands out to me?*** *what word, phrase, verse, or idea grabs my attention?*

>>THING TO DO | Take into prayerful consideration and thought that word, phrase, or idea. Don't push too much into figuring out why it stood out to you-just let it sit in your mind.

## **STEP TWO: READ THROUGH THE PASSAGE A SECOND TIME**

***question to ask | WHY does this stand out to me?*** *what specific situation, emotional state, or personal struggle is happening in life that this connects to?*

>>THING TO DO | After getting any questions answered, really dig into that word/phrase/idea that stood out to you, and ask yourself *why*? Try to make this *why* as specific as you can to *you* and *your life*. We believe God meets us in the here and now of reality, not just abstract thought. What bigger truth is God trying to show you? Is there a situation that occurred that He is trying to teach you something about? Is He helping you be more aware of something you didn't know was there? Is He reminding you of something you've learned before?

## **STEP THREE: READ THROUGH THE PASSAGE A THIRD TIME**

***question to ask | HOW do I respond?*** *What is God inviting me to do about what I've just read?*

>>THING TO DO | Now, prayerfully ask God what He's asking you to do about it! God is always at work in us and through us, and this is a chance to take a small, concrete step to engage in that work. It doesn't have to be a huge life change. Make it something that's doable within the next few days.

**When you dwell, you aren't trying to read yourself into a passage. Rather, you're allowing the Holy Spirit to work through the passage to lead you. This exercise is designed to help increase awareness around God's activity in your life through Scripture, and how you can join Him in growing in deeper relationship.**