APPENDIX C: HOW TO STUDY YOUR BIBLE

STEP ONE: CHOOSE A BOOK OF THE BIBLE

- We recommend starting with one of the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John).
- Research the background and context of the book.
  - Background: When was this passage written? Who wrote it?
  - Context: Who was it written to? Why was it written?
- Lay out an assigned reading plan.

STEP TWO: READ

- Read the assigned reading throughout the week.
- Read the assigned reading together.

STEP THREE: ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

1. What is the "big idea" of the passage?
2. What does this passage mean? What are the implications from this passage?
3. What are the repeated words or phrases in this passage? What are the connecting words in the passage? (therefore, but, then. so that, etc.)
4. What does this passage reveal about God?
5. How am I encouraged and strengthened?
6. Is there a sin in my life that needs to be confessed and repented?
7. Because of what this passage says, how do I need to alter my life for the purpose of spiritual growth?
8. How does this passage apply to my practical life? What is my response?
9. What can I model and teach?
10. How does this passage move me to action?

STEP FOUR:

- Assign the reading for next week.
- Ask two follow-up questions to be answered next week from the reading.

HELPFUL HINTS:

- Write down any difficult questions to study deeper throughout the week.
- Read slowly and evaluate the context.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will be your guide and teacher into all truth! (John 16:13)