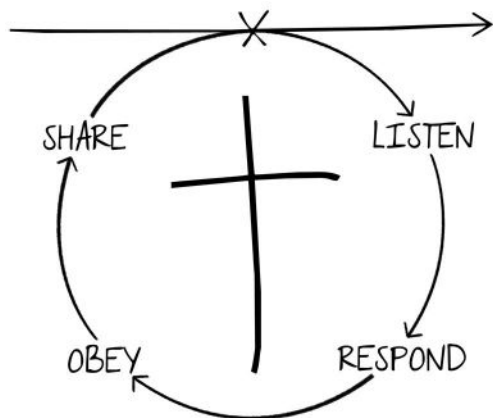


Using the Transformation Circle for Reading God's Word



Top Arrow and "X"

- The X represents a moment in time. In this case, it's when the Word of God is open and we are reading it.
- At that moment, I have a choice. I can go through the motions of reading or I can engage in conversation with God through his word and enter the transformation process.

The Cross

Since every one of the steps below will point us to the gospel and since Jesus is the only means of transformation, we put the cross in the center to remind us that transformation is ultimately about experiencing the power of the gospel and becoming like Jesus Himself.

LISTEN (Proverbs 2:1-5)

The first thing I need to do is *listen* for God's voice, turning my ears and heart towards him and asking questions like the following:

- What does this passage say about God himself? How is his character revealed through what he has written?
- What does this passage say about people and sin? How does it show me who I am and what my heart is like?
- How does this passage ultimately point me to Jesus?

RESPOND (Psalm 119:162, John 20:30-31, 1 Thessalonians 1:6-9)

As I listen, how does God want me to *respond*? How is he speaking to me personally through his word?

- Are there commands or examples in the passage that expose my heart and lead me to *repent*?
- Are there promises in the passage that encourage my *faith*?
- Are there truths in the passage that lead me to *rejoice* or *worship*?

Not every element will be present every time you read, but asking the questions are helpful. Because God is a person, as he shows us how to respond to his words, it is helpful to write or pray a prayer of response based on what he's shown us.

OBEY (Matthew 7:24-27, Luke 11:27-28, James 1:22-25)

As we listen to God's voice and respond to him in praise, repentance, and faith, we also want the Spirit to show us intentional steps of obedience. These are some of the questions we might ask the Spirit to answer:

- What is one concrete step I can take towards obedience? This may be a "big" step or a "small" step. Sometimes it's a radical change of life that's needed. Other times, it's continuing to persevere in what God is already doing.
- Who can I ask to keep me accountable to what God has shown me I should do?
- How can I make sure my obedience is fueled by God's love for me in Jesus?

SHARE (Matthew 28:18-20, 2 Timothy 2:1-2)

As God teaches and changes us through his Word, we should want to share our experience and God's truth with others, as he gives us opportunity. So, it's helpful to ask questions like the following:

- Is there a believer in my life who might need to hear what God has taught me through his word?
- Is there an unbeliever in my life who might be able to see God's love through me as I share what God is teaching me?
- How might I point that person to Jesus when I share God's Word with them?

Scripture Passage

LISTEN

WHAT IS GOD SAYING?

Using the questions below, focus on what is *clearly in the text*, not what you want the text to say. Make a note of anything unclear or that needs further study, but be sure to listen and respond to what *is* clear.

What does it say about **God**?

What does it say about **people** or **sin**?

How does it ultimately point to **Jesus**?

What did you find surprising or unexpected?

Horizontal lines for writing answers to the 'LISTEN' section questions.

RESPOND

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

What truths in this passage lead you to **repent**?

What truths encourage you to **believe**?

What truths lead you to **worship** or **rejoice**?

How does your relationship as God's child help you respond?

Horizontal lines for writing answers to the 'RESPOND' section questions.

Write a prayer of response to God based on the passage and your answers above.

Horizontal lines for writing a prayer of response to God.

OBEY

Listen to the Spirit, asking him how you might specifically obey this passage this week.

Write down any commitments and ask someone to help keep you accountable.

How does God's love for you in Jesus fuel your obedience?

Horizontal lines for writing answers to the 'OBEY' section questions.

SHARE

Listen to the Spirit, asking him if there is someone with whom you should share this passage.

As you share, in what ways might you point them to Jesus?

Horizontal lines for writing answers to the 'SHARE' section questions.