

## TOOL #2: READ ENTIRELY AND REPEATEDLY

One of the most basic Bible study tools is simply reading the text in full and doing so repeatedly. This is especially appropriate when we are reading a book of the bible like Philippians. And it's not as difficult as you might imagine. The entire book is 4 chapters long and only contains 2,142 words.<sup>1</sup> Since the average person can read between 250-300 words per minute, this means that we can read the entire book of Philippians in less than 10 minutes.

### READ ENTIRELY.

First, read the book of Philippians in its entirety. Remember, this is a letter from Paul to the church. When you get a letter in the mail, you sit down and read the whole thing. It has a natural flow. The words of the letter contain the thought progression of the writer, and it's meant to be read in one sitting! That's the same way Paul meant for Philippians to be read—all at once. It naturally weaves together, each paragraph building on the last.

Get acquainted with it by reading it in its entirety.

### READ REPEATEDLY.

Second, read it repeatedly. Most times, you can tell that if someone has seen a movie or tv show more than once when he knows all of the characters' lines by heart. He didn't try to memorize the lines; they just got stuck in his mind because he watched it over and over again. And if we do that with *The Office*, how much more should we do that with the words of Scripture! When I first started working as an intern at the church, one of my bosses told me that before he wrote a sermon on a given text, he would read the book in its entirety upwards of 50 times because it helped him get a grasp for what the author wanted to say, what the major themes were, and so on.

I've heard it said that this is like taking a helicopter ride over a piece of land before going hiking. We get a general idea for the lay of the land before we try to hike the peaks and the valleys.

### HOMEWORK.

Read Philippians in its entirety (start to finish without a break) 7 times. Listen to the book 3 additional times using the recording found within the *Leadership Essentials* app.

Take advantage of this tool and we will be more prepared to hike through the words of the book together!

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<sup>1</sup>Word count calculated using English Standard Version (ESV) of the Bible.