

## Re-Formed: by God and For His Mission: Refined: Excuses

*lifeLines, the format that our lifeGroups follow in their weekly gatherings, will begin to have a new look. For the next few months, we will be encouraging lifeGroups to practice using various ways of reading scripture. lifeGroup leaders will be given resources to use to plan their own Worship, Witness, and Prayer times. The focus scripture and method for reading scripture for each will be printed in the weekly lifeLines portion of the bulletin. Planning resources for lifeGroup leaders can be found in the Welcome area and on our website. If you have questions, please contact Emily Powers at [epowers@livelifetogether.com](mailto:epowers@livelifetogether.com).*

### Reading My Bible: R-R-R-R

This method of reading scripture helps the reader work from understanding the text to applying and incorporating the text into his/her life. This method is a convenient one to have available when reading Scripture with other people. The simple pattern is reproducible and usable for any passage in any type of setting. Not every question applies to every passage – the questions below are just examples of what fits in each category. Be creative in how you work through this process: **READ** for understanding, **REFLECT** for meaning, **RESPOND** for your own life, **REMEMBER** so it is incorporated into daily living.

### PASSAGE: Romans 3:1-8

**Read:** What's going on? What's the background? Who-What-When?

- What stands out? Is confusing? Surprising?
- Is anything repeated a lot?
- Who is the audience?
- What is the context? Conflict?
- How would you retell this passage?

**Reflect:** What is the bottom line of what God wants me to know?

- Do I ever act like the people in this passage?
- What emotions am I experiencing while I read this? Why those emotions?
- What is the point? Why is this in the Bible? What is God trying to teach me?
- What do I learn about who God is? Who Jesus is? Who I am?
- How does this passage point to Jesus? Point to the missional heart of God?
- How does this passage encourage me? Challenge me? Point me to God's love?

**Respond:** So What? How do I apply this passage to my life and allow it to transform me?

- Is God wanting me to start/stop/continue doing something?
- How can this passage affect my relationships at home/work/friends? How does it affect my relationship with God? How does it affect my own attitude?
- Is God wanting me to confess? Praise Him? Thank Him?
- Do I need to surrender anything? How does it teach me to trust Jesus?
- How can this help me learn to live as a missionary?

**Remember:** How will I not forget what God was speaking to me today?

- How can I remember what God is teaching me today? Write myself a note? Ask someone to remind me? Memorize a verse? Etc.
- How do I want to be held accountable?
- What's the next step?