

AEIOU Method

Dear Parents,

Your child is learning a new Bible reading method called **AEIOU**, designed to help them understand God's Word more deeply and apply it to their lives. This guide will explain each step, offer resources, and provide examples to help you assist them if they have questions or get stuck.

The goal of AEIOU is to move beyond just reading words on a page to truly **engaging with Scripture**, thinking critically, and discovering God's truth for themselves.

Understanding the AEIOU Method

Each letter represents a step in processing a Bible passage:

A: Ask Questions
E: Emphasize Key Words
I: In Your Own Words
O: Other Related Scripture
U: Use It

A: Ask Questions

The Idea: To understand the context of the Bible passage. Before and after reading, your child should ask "who, what, when, where, why" questions about the background of the book and the specific verses. This helps them interpret the text correctly.

How to Help:

- **Pre-Reading Context:**
 - **Old or New Testament?**
 - **What kind of book?** (Law, History, Poetry, Prophets, Gospels, Letters, etc)
 - **Who wrote it? When?**
 - **How does this passage fit the larger Bible story?** (What happened right before this? What's the general situation of the people/characters?)
- **Post-Reading Questions:** After reading the verses, what words, phrases, or events confuse them? Who are the characters? What is happening? Why?
- **Resources:**
 - **Your Bible's Introduction:** Many Bibles have introductions before each book that provide this background.

- **Online Commentaries:**
 - <https://www.blueletterbible.org/> (App is better than the website)
 - **Google:** Simple searches for "Who is [character name] in the Bible?" or "What does [phrase] mean in [Bible verse]?" can be very helpful.
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E: Emphasize Key Words

The Idea: To identify words, phrases, or events that stand out or seem central to the passage's main theme.

How to Help:

- Encourage your child to re-read the passage slowly.
 - Ask them: "What words or phrases are repeated?" "What seems most important in this story?" "What really drives the action?"
 - They can highlight, underline, or simply list these.
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I: In Your Own Words

The Idea: To summarize the passage in a few sentences using their own words. This helps reinforce their understanding and make the meaning personal.

How to Help:

- Ask: "If you had to tell someone this story in just 2-3 sentences, what would you say?"
 - Encourage them to use their notes from the "Ask" and "Emphasize" steps to form their summary. The goal isn't a word-for-word retelling, but capturing the main idea.
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O: Other Related Scripture

The Idea: To find at least one other Bible verse (not in the same chapter) that connects to or clarifies a theme from the original passage. This teaches them to interpret Scripture with Scripture.

How to Help:

- **Brainstorm Themes:** What are the big ideas from the passage? (e.g., God's sovereignty, obedience, consequences of sin, God providing a leader, human desire vs. God's will).
- **Cross-References:** Look for footnotes or cross-references in their Bible.

- **Online Search:** Use a Bible app (like Blue Letter Bible) or Google to search for keywords or themes (e.g., "verses about obedience," "God choosing kings").
 - **Connect to Jesus:** The whole Bible points to Jesus. Can they find a New Testament verse where Jesus addresses a similar idea or fulfills a theme from the Old Testament?
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U: Use It

The Idea: To apply the lesson from the Bible passage to their own life. This involves thinking about how they can respond, reflect, or reinforce the key idea.

How to Help:

- **Respond (Action):** What is God asking them to *do*? Is there a behavior to change, an attitude to adjust, or a truth to embrace?
 - **Reflect (Prayer):** What questions can they take to God in prayer based on this passage?
 - **Reinforce (Memorize/Remember):** Is there a key verse they can memorize or remind themselves of regularly?
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We encourage you to engage with your child as they use this method. It's a wonderful way to grow in God's Word together as a family!