A Simple Method
for a devotional reading of Scripture.

1. Begin with a prayer, however simple, that asks for the Spirit of God to be present as you read and for the God to open your heart and mind to hear what God wants to say to you.

2. Read the text slowly.

3. Pay attention to whatever word or phrase speaks most to you. If nothing jumps out at you, read the passage again more slowly. You might also ask yourself “What should I remember from this?” or pray “God what do you want me to see?”

4. Write the word or phrase down and think about it at other times during the day.

5. If you are bold, and reading the text with others, share with them what it meant for you. And listen to what it meant for them. (There is no right or wrong here, only how it speaks to you.)

Two things to remember:
You do not need to understand the text to find something of meaning. We are often struck by a stray word from the TV or radio. The key is to stop and pay attention to that word.

Above all remember that the reading glasses that help us hear the scripture correctly is Jesus’ death for us and God raising him from the dead. God speaks to us to create faith, to help us trust in and live by his promise of grace and life.

Finally, don’t give up. All things get better with practice.