

**2** Essential Tools

**3** Seven Steps

**1** Initial Thoughts

**4** The Meeting

**[Effective Pre-Study]**

# 1 Initial Thoughts

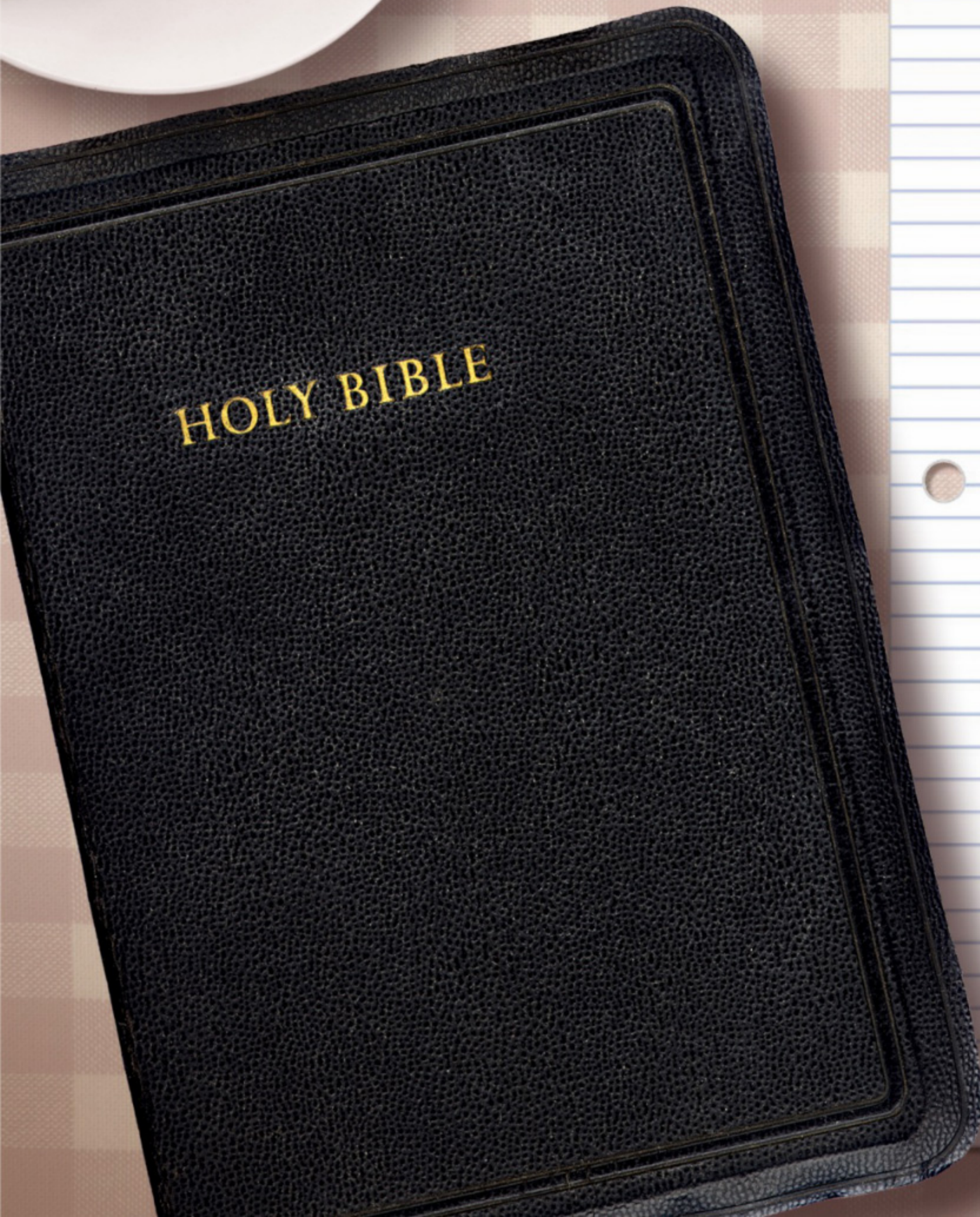


**It takes time**



**Huge benefits**





## “meditate”

Psalm 119

:15 “I will meditate on your precepts and consider your ways.”

:23 “Though rulers sit together and slander me, your servant will meditate on your decrees.”

:148 “My eyes stay open through the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promises.”





# Essential Tools



**Study Bible**



**Paper and Pen**



**Commentaries / Study guides**



**Software / Online Tools**



# 3

## Seven Steps

Pray

Background

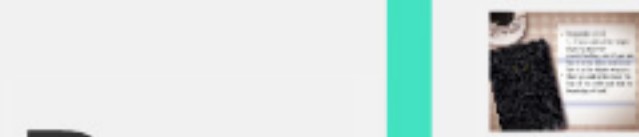
Read/Context

Read/Study

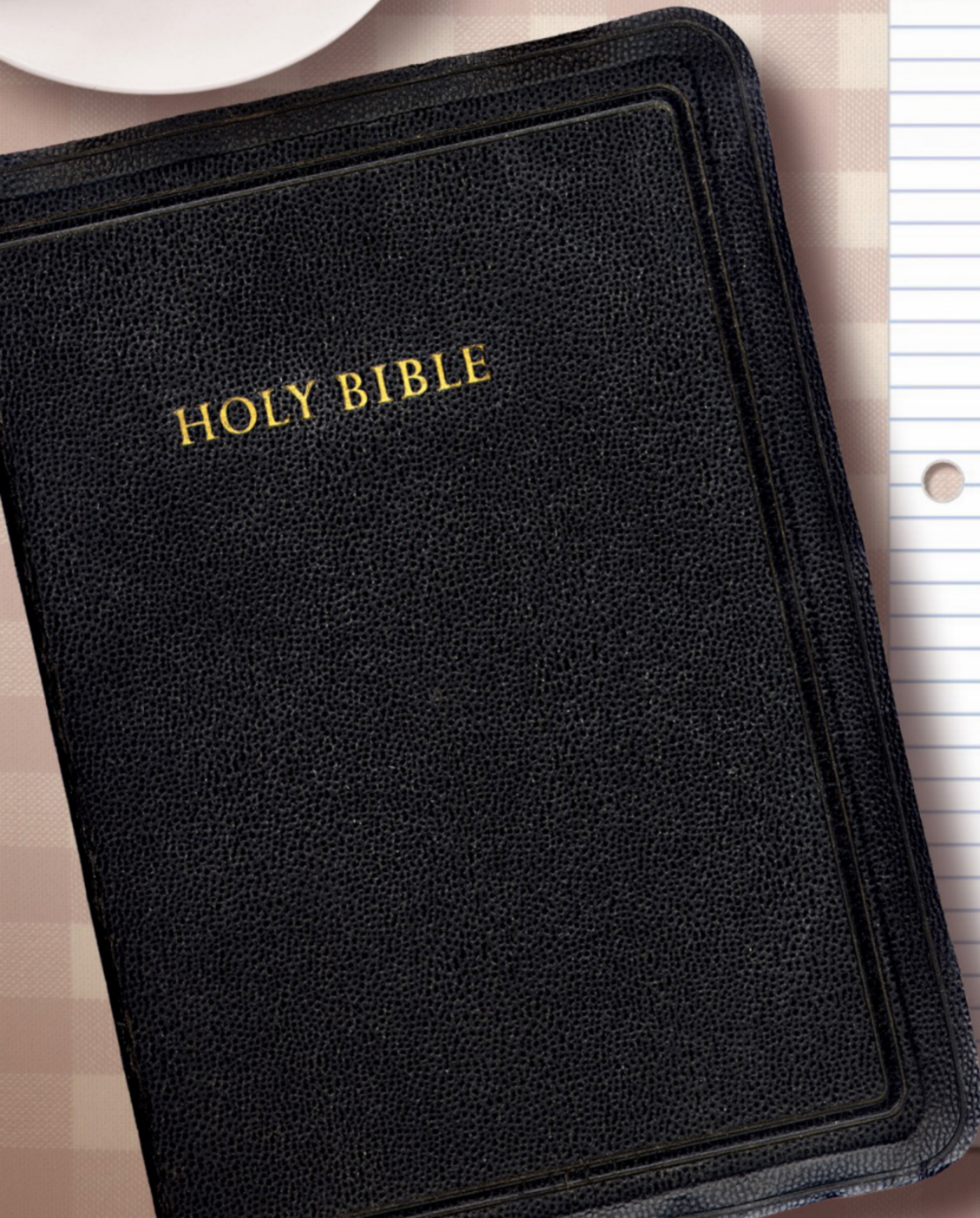
Meditate

Commentaries

Application





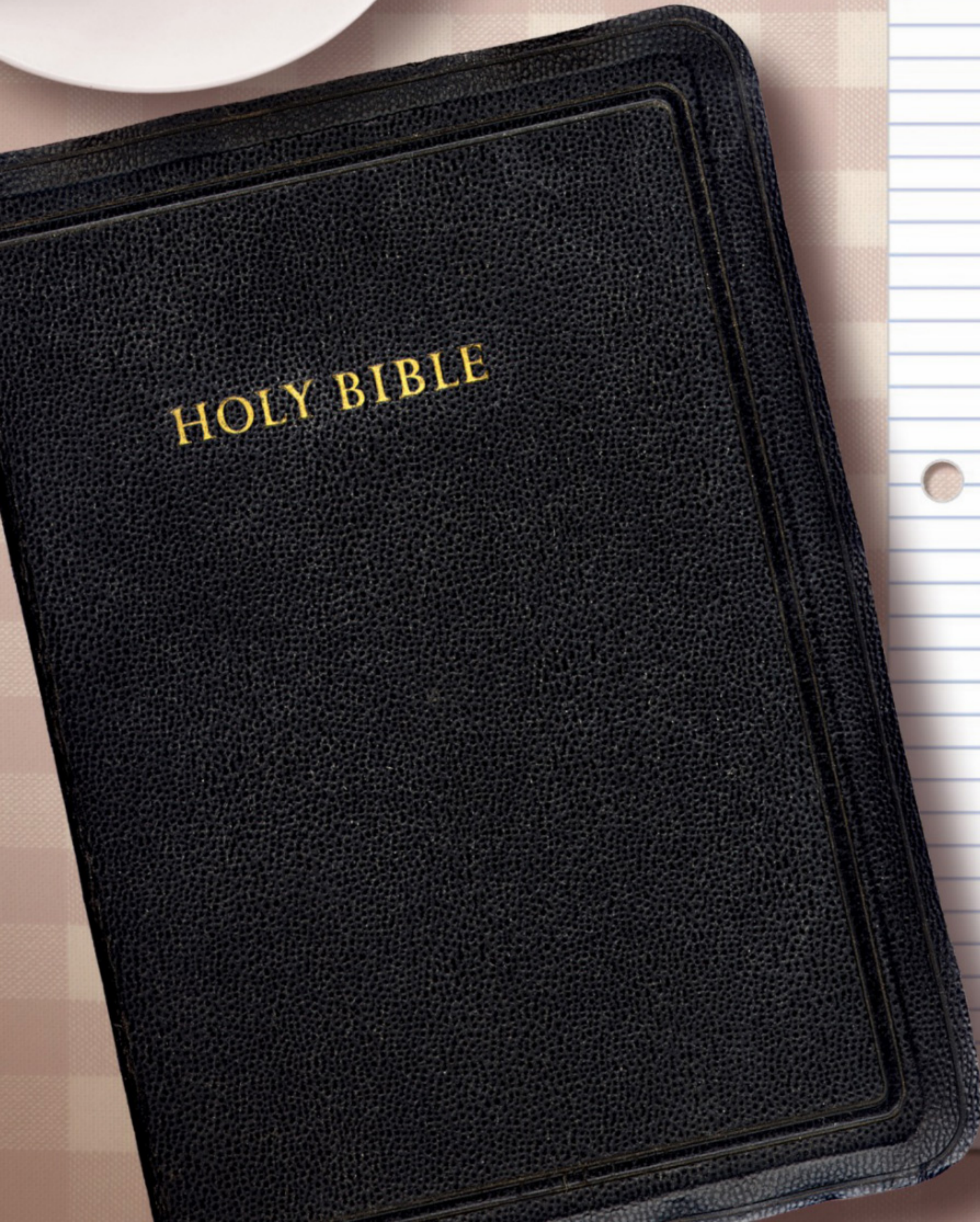


- **Proverbs 2:3-5**

"... if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure,

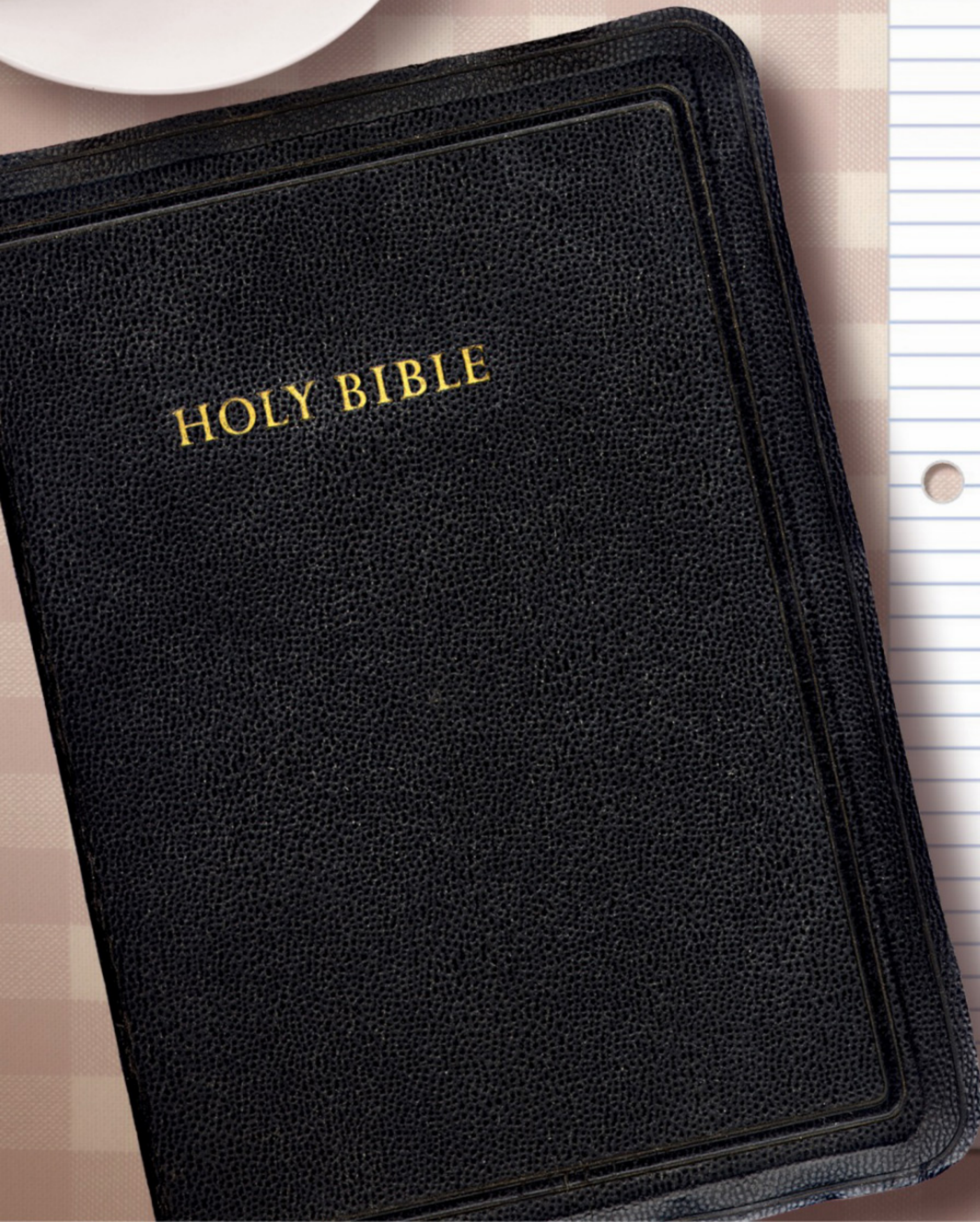
- then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God."





- **Background Study**  
Study Bible book introductions
  - Author
  - Date
  - Intended Audience
  - Purpose
- **Themes**
  - Structure / Outline





## ● Read / Context

Read entire book or section

- Reader's Bible

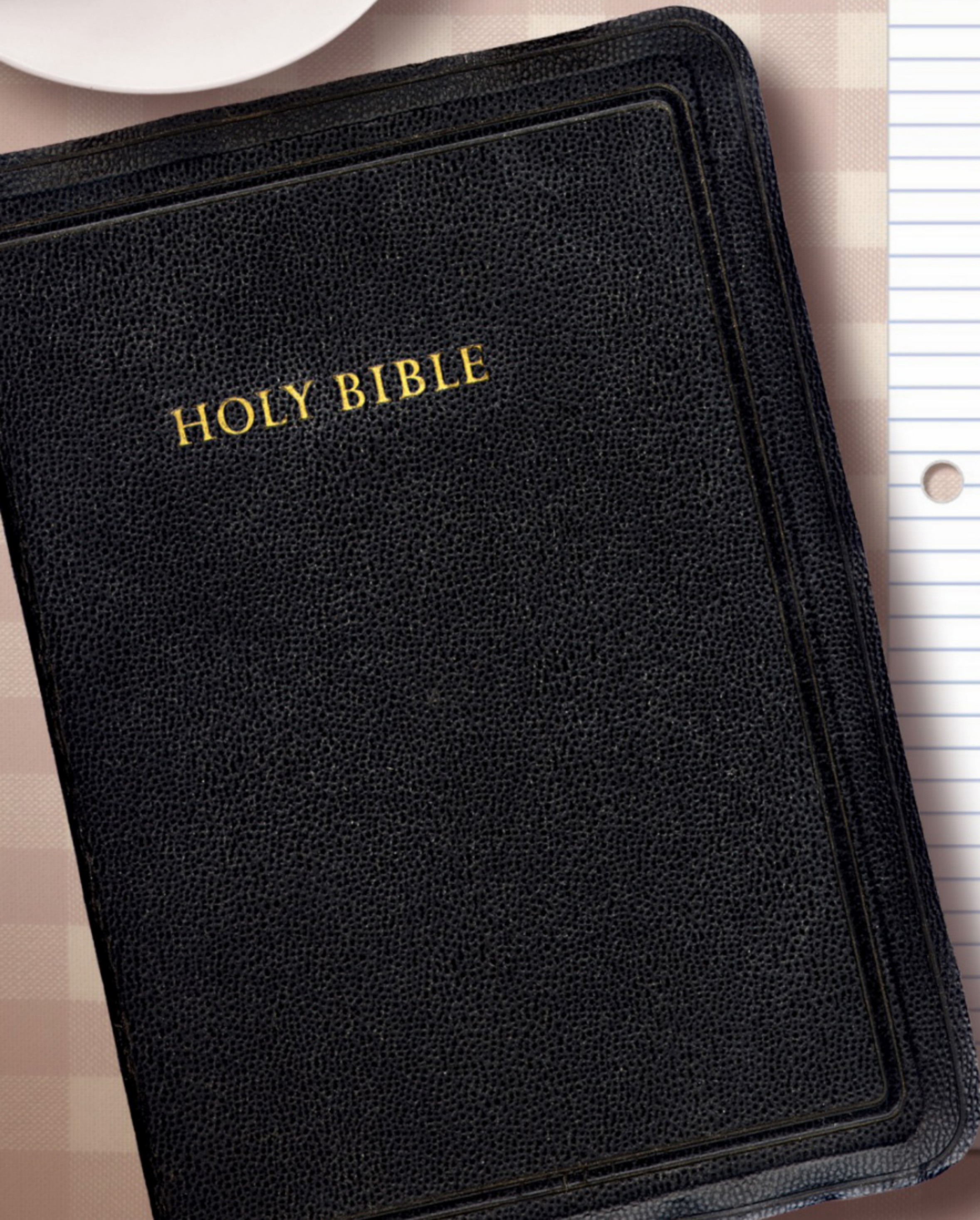
<http://www.crossway.org/bibles/esv-readers-bible-none-tru/>

- What is the big picture?
- Do themes/purpose come through?

## ● Read passage to be studied

- Read it again
- Note the following:
  - Immediately surrounding passages
  - Book as a whole
- Summarize main thoughts





## Read / Study

Read again:

- What is the flow of the narrative or argument

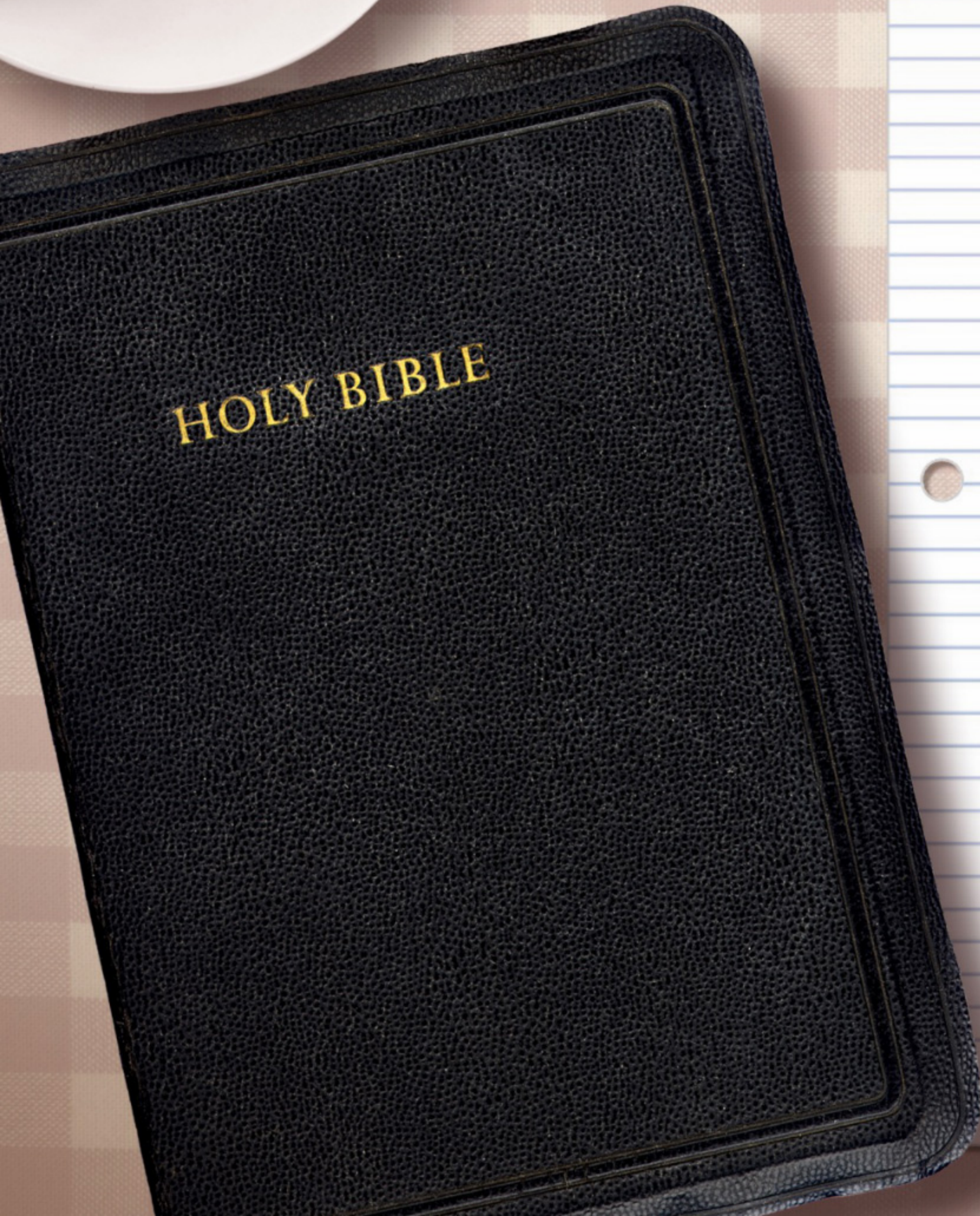
Compare Scripture with Scripture:

- Same word / thought used elsewhere in Scripture
- How does that inform your understanding?

Look for:

- Key / unique words/phrases
- Repeated words/phrases
- Compare translations





## ● Read / Study

### Word Study:

- Study Bible Concordance
- Online tools

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/>

### Ask Questions of the Text:

- Why this word?
- Why is it stated this way?
- How does this verse (these verses) contribute to the whole?

Note unanswered questions





## ● Meditate

Read again to answer these types of questions:

- What does this passage reveal about:
  - God
  - His Son - Jesus Christ
  - Us
- Major themes of Scripture



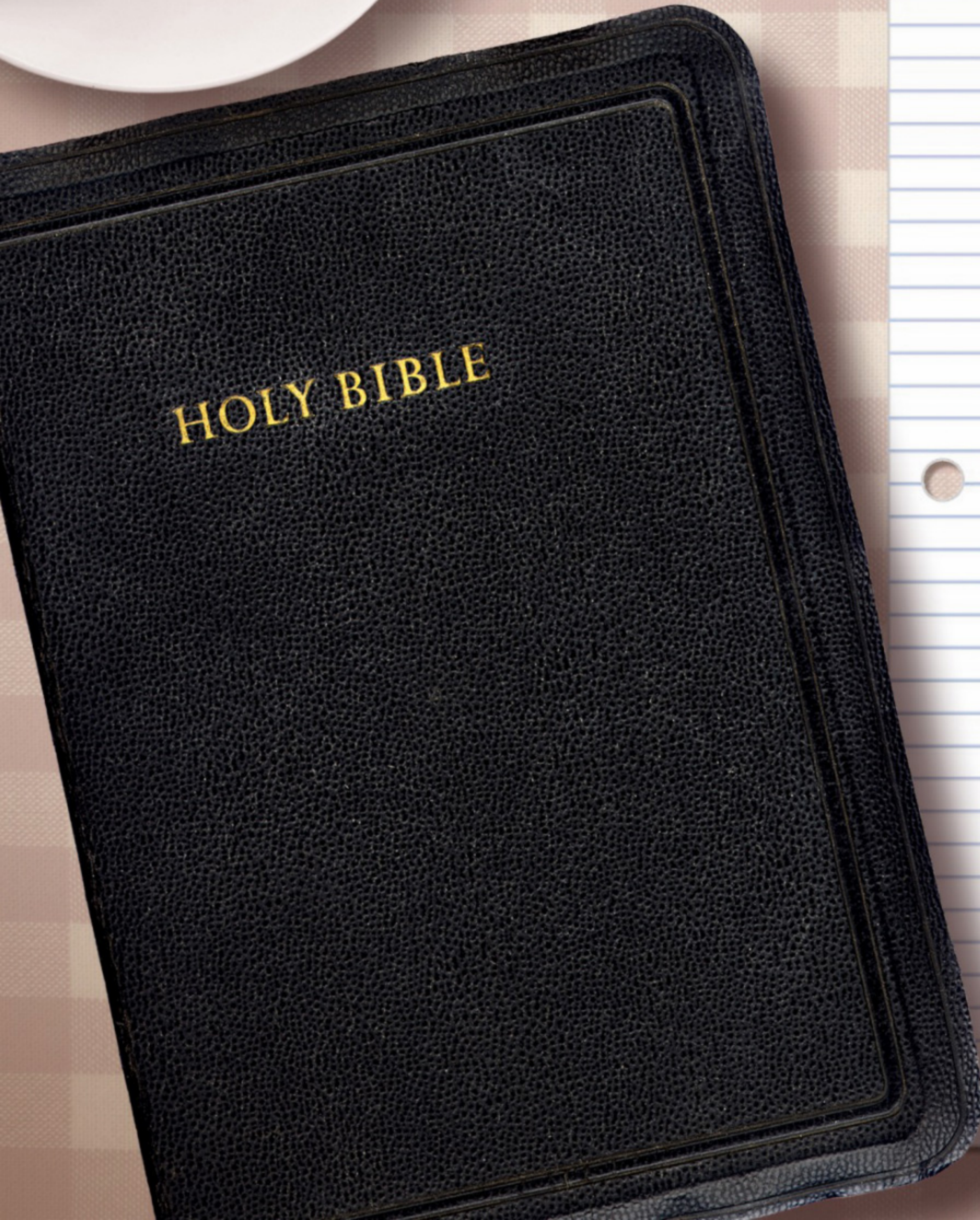


HOLY BIBLE

## Commentaries

- Towards the end of your study!!
- Compare your findings with commentators
  - agree/disagree? Why?
- Note differences / questions
- Note the 'nuggets' you missed





## ● Commentaries

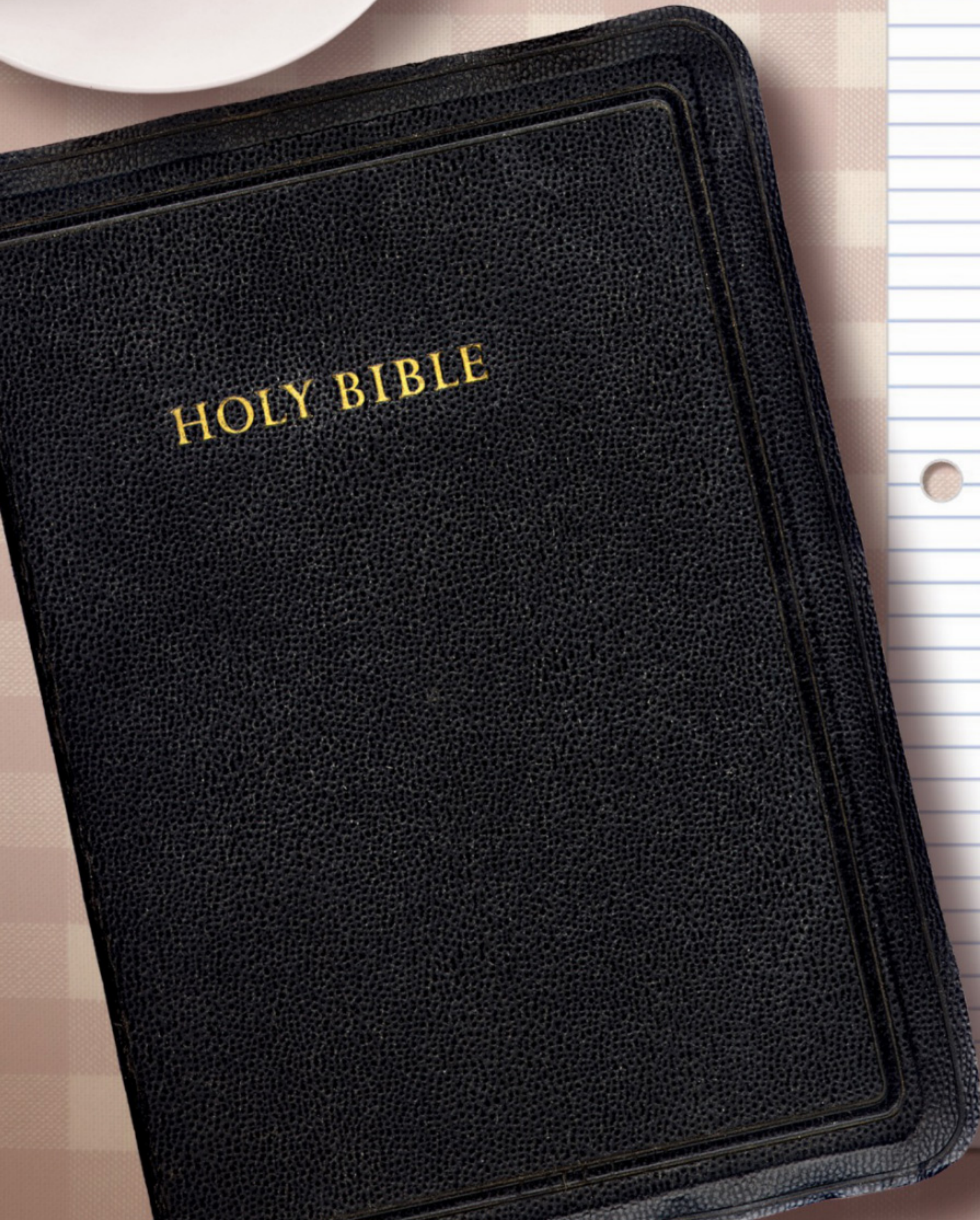
Some thoughts:

- Read thoughtfully
- Discretion necessary
- Know the author's background

## ● Sources:

- [ilpb.ca](http://ilpb.ca)
- [premierpublishing.ca](http://premierpublishing.ca)
- [inhpubl.net](http://inhpubl.net)
- [godutch.com/store](http://godutch.com/store)



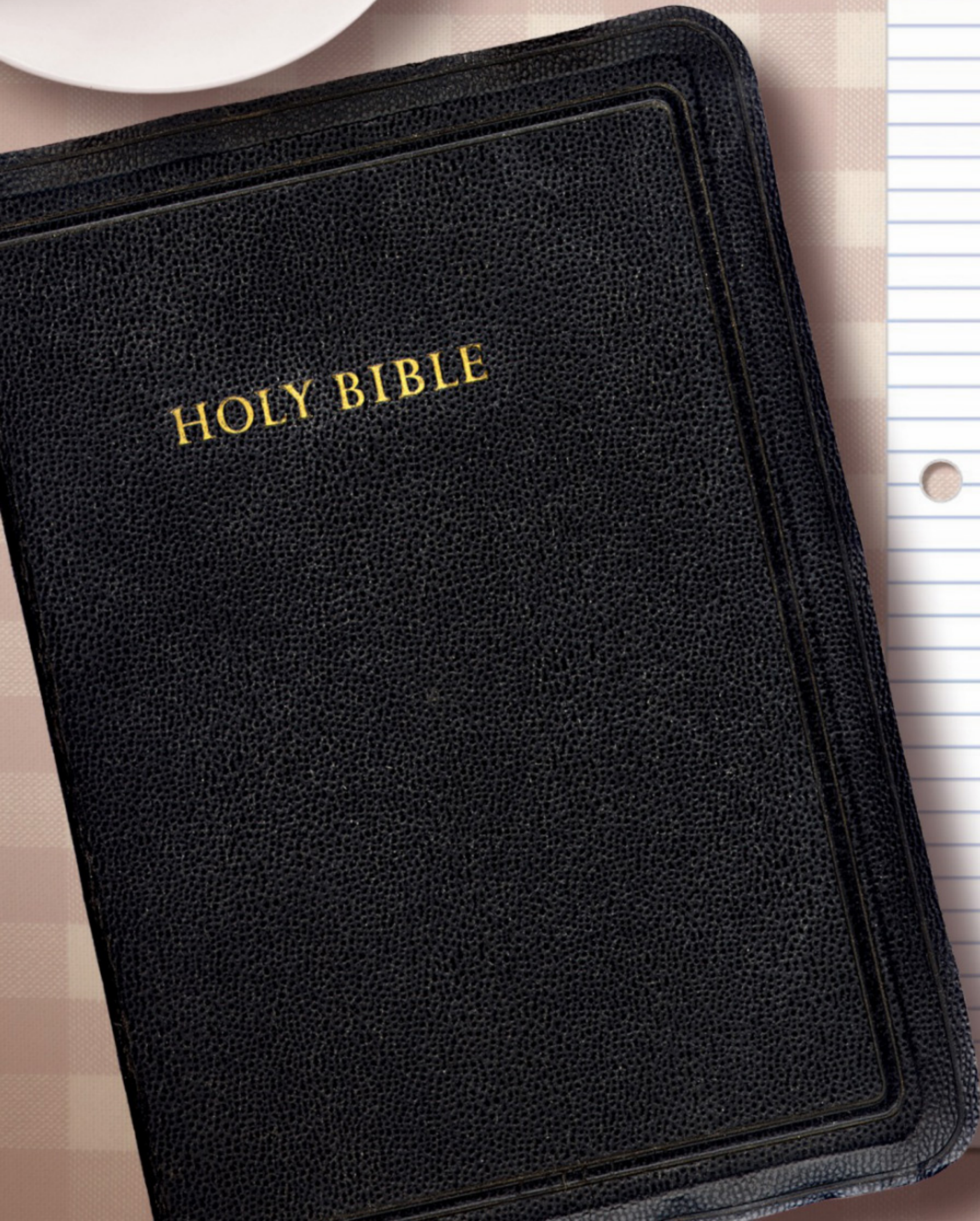


## Commentaries

Sources cont...:

- Reformed Book Services
  - [reformedbookservices.ca](http://reformedbookservices.ca)
- States:
  - Reformation Heritage Books
    - [heritagebooks.org](http://heritagebooks.org)
  - Westminster Theological Book Store
    - [wtsbooks.com](http://wtsbooks.com)





## ● Application

Don't rush here

Points to consider:

- How am I addressed?
  - head
  - heart
  - life
- What does this passage have to say to the church?
- Is there a message here that we can take to others.





# **4The Meeting**



**Enjoy lively discussion**



**Take along notes  
and tools**



**Use 'discoveries' and  
unanswered questions  
as discussion starters**