

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

SOAP BIBLE STUDY METHOD

SOAP is a Bible reading and journaling method that helps us process, reflect on, and apply God's word to our lives. We don't read the Bible just to read the Bible, **we read the Bible to be transformed by God's word.** As you study God's word, pray and ask Holy Spirit to do a transformative work in you.

•••••••••••••••• **LET THE WORD SPEAK TO YOU,
CHALLENGE YOU, COMFORT YOU, CONVICT YOU, AND CHANGE YOU.**

S • Scripture
O • Observation
A • Application
P • Prayer

Scripture

Start with prayer, asking God to speak to you through His word, then read through the passage of scripture slowly. As you read, ask God to highlight a verse(s) and write it in your journal.

Observation

Write down some observations about this verse or passage. This can be simple observations or go into much deeper study.

Questions to consider:

- What is the background or the setting?
- Notice things like repetition, comparison, contrast.
- What is the overall theme of this passage?
- What questions arise as you read and study? (These can be studied out further.)
- Who was it written by?
- Who is the original audience?
- What is the historical or cultural context?
- Word Study: use resources like blueletterbible.org, a dictionary, etc. to further understanding of the words and meanings, or to dig deeper into a topic/theme.

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Application

Write down how you can apply this scripture to your life.

Questions to consider:

- What does the passage/verse teach me about God?
- What does this passage/verse teach me about myself?
- How should this change me?
- How does this truth give me a perspective to see the way God sees?
- What should I do in response?
- How does it prompt me to pray, interact and relate with other people?

Prayer

Write out a prayer thanking and praising God for His truth. Praise God for the attributes of Him that were revealed to you in this passage. Confess any sin that has come to light during this time of studying. Thank Him for His word and ask Him to continue to work in you. Write down what your heart desires to say to God in response to His word. Turn the scripture into a prayer back to God.