

GETTING INTO THE WORD – S-O-A-P BIBLE STUDY

TOOL: S-O-A-P BIBLE STUDY

(Recommendation: Do this early with people to get them into the Word and find application)

S-O-A-P is an acronym which stands for Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer. Using these four key terms, you can learn how to apply each of them in your time in God's Word. This is a way of getting more out of your time in God's Word. The S-O-A-P method of Bible Study does not require a theology degree or special skills; it's simple and very easy to reproduce.

By S-O-A-P'ing the verses you are reading, you'll be able to dive deeper into God's Word and "see" more than just quickly reading the verses. In using this tool, people can gain confidence that they can read, understand, and study God's Word for themselves. The best part about this tool is it helps to grow in hearing the voice of God.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS!

The SOAP method is a unique and organized way to study the Bible. This method encourages us to dig deeper into Scripture and see more than if we were to simply read through a passage. S-O-A-P stands for Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer. Using these four key terms we will teach you what each of them mean and how to apply them in your time in God's Word.

S – SCRIPTURE

Step one is to physically write out the Bible verse or verses that you are sitting in. You'll be amazed at what God will reveal to you when you slow down to write or meditate on what you are reading!

O – OBSERVATION

What do you see in the verses you're reading? Who is the audience? Is there a repetition of words? What words stand out to you? What is the main lesson or theme? Pray the prayer "God, why did You write this?" Write down what you hear.

A – APPLICATION

This is when God's Word becomes personal. What is God saying to me today? How can I apply what I just read to my life? Are there any changes I need to make? Write down what you hear.

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P – PRAYER

Here, practice praying what you learned and heard through God's Word back to Him. If He has revealed something to you during this time in His Word, pray about it. Confess if He has revealed some sin that is in your life. Take time to thank Him for His goodness in your life. Speak out or write out your prayer to God based on what you just learned and ask Him to help you apply this truth in your life.

What do I Study?

There's really no wrong place to start! You can study anything that's going to help you. For example, if you're dealing with anger or fear, use a concordance and locate those words to see which scriptures talk about them. By studying what the Bible says about specific subjects, we learn how we should think about them. This is when life transformation can truly take place as we align our thoughts with God's.