



## S.O.A.P. BIBLE READING

There are numerous ways to read, study, and internalize God's Word. One helpful method is to journal intentionally through the acronym "S.O.A.P." to wash yourself with God's Word. You can briefly walk through the steps or spend hours carefully working through scripture passages personally or with others. Consider following the steps of S.O.A.P. in your journal by (1) writing down the passage for the day or if you are reading a long passage, then write down a few verses that stood out. (2) Then observe what is going on in the context, what is repeated, what is dramatic or surprising, what do you learn of God. (3) Personalize the observations. What is Jesus speaking to you? Where do you see connections from your reading with your life circumstances? How will your day look different? (4) Lastly, write out what the Holy Spirit has been speaking to you in a prayer of response.

### S - Scripture

Open your Bible to your reading for the day. Take time reading and allow God to speak to you. When you are done, look for a verse that particularly spoke to you that day, and write it in your journal.

### O - Observation

What do you see in context? What do you learn about God's character? What is repeated, interesting, dramatic, or touching? Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal Jesus to you.

### A - Application

Personalize what you have observed by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, a new promise, or corrections for a particular area of your life. Write how you plan to live this scripture out today or this week.

### P - Prayer

This can be as simple as asking God to help you live this scripture, or even a prayer for a greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two-way conversation, so be sure to listen to what God has to say! Now, write it out.

### SAMPLE

**S** John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

- O**
- God's love was shown by him giving Jesus
  - God's love is for "the world"
  - "to save" the world "Jesus" was needed

God doesn't desire to condemn the world

Help me God to have your heart.

belief in Jesus is powerful to save

- A**
- Since God's love is shown by a costly gift, I need to show love by generosity
  - Jesus saves. Jesus I need to be saved from my pride, love of the world more than you.

**P** Dear Jesus, first thank you for your love expressed in action. Thank you for saving me. Help me today to pause before I act in condemning ways and help me be more generous like you. Amen.