

## The S.O.A.P. Method for Reading and Applying God's Word

This method provides a simple, practical, reproducible, and effective Bible study that anyone can use and train others to use. The goal is to spend time with God regularly, listening to His Spirit and His Word. By doing this, we grow in our understanding of Him, apply what is learned, and then share it with others.

Before you begin reading Scripture, practice communicating with God by telling Him you want to spend time with Him. Ask Him to speak to you by His Spirit and through His words from Scripture.

**1. Scripture:** Choose a passage and read or listen to it (two times if possible). Write down verses or phrases that stand out to you or that you want to remember. Write down things you might want to understand better or have questions about.

**2. Observe:** As you read and re-read the passage, ask questions about the passage that help you process what is being communicated. The primary questions to ask are "What does this passage reveal about God? What does this passage reveal about mankind?"

**3. Apply:** Think about what it means to respond today to what you have just read. Consider questions like the ones listed below, then complete this statement: "By God's grace, I will \_\_\_\_\_."

Does this text reveal a truth about God or a promise I should believe?  
Does this text reveal something I should praise or thank God for?  
Does this text reveal a command that I should obey?  
Does this text reveal an attitude, thought, or behavior I should confess?  
Does this text reveal something I should pray about for myself/others?

**4. Pray:** Talk with God about what you've read. Praise Him for anything that He has revealed about His own nature. Ask forgiveness for any sin that has been exposed. Pray for anyone whom He has brought to mind. Ask Him to help you walk in obedience so that He would be glorified.

**Person:** Prayerfully reflect on who might need to hear the truth that God has revealed to you. If someone comes to mind, write down their name, pray for them, and consider a time you could intentionally share what you're learning with them.

### Scripture

Write down the reference for today's reading.

Write out any phrases or verses that stand out to you or that you want to remember.

### Observe

What does this passage reveal about God?

What does this passage reveal about people?

### Apply

By God's grace, I will:

### Prayer

Talk with God about what you've read. Write down a prayer that reflects what you've learned and its application.

### Person

Write down the names of anyone you would like to share with about what you've learned and how you are going to obey it.