



How To Do A SOAP Bible Study

A Structured And Easy Approach To Studying Scripture

If your times of Bible reading and studying seem chaotic, lack a sense of direction, or have become a bit mechanical, the SOAP method is a very useful tool. If you enjoy a structured approach (or dislike structure but need it), why not give it a try? This method will not only help you read your Bible more consistently, it will also help ensure accurate interpretation of scripture and effective application of it to your life.

1. Pray, asking the Holy Spirit to give you understanding of the Bible passage.
2. Preview the text by quickly reading through the section you are studying in order to get the general idea of what is being said. It is best to read out loud.
 - a. In your mind, answer the “who, what, when, where, and why” questions.
3. Next, read the text slowly, asking the Holy Spirit to guide you to the verses He wants you to apply to your life. Select a few verses to be the focus of your study. Copy these verses under **SCRIPTURE**.
4. Under **OBSERVATION** write down your observations and interpretations of the passage. You could paraphrase, outline, look up key words, write down questions that require further research, or summarize. Look for the timeless principle that God wants you to apply to your life.
5. Write this timeless principle under **APPLICATION** “knowing that.”
6. Under “I will” write how you will put this principle into practice in your life/relationships. Be specific enough so that you can tell when you’ve obeyed. Make your application *measurable*.
7. Close your study in **PRAYER**, asking Jesus to enable you to complete your application. Ask Him to show you who to tell what you learned.
8. Tell this person what you learned.

Here are some great passages to start using SOAP:

1. Romans 6:1-14
2. Ephesians 5:1-13
3. Romans 8:1-17
4. John 15:1-15
5. John 17:1-25
6. Ephesians 5:14-21
7. James 4:1-12
8. Matthew 18:15-22
9. Acts 2:42-27
10. 2 Corinthians 5:14-21
11. Galatians 6:1-10
12. 1 Corinthians 12:12-31
13. Hebrews 12:1-16
14. Galatians 3:1-5
15. Ephesians 2:1-10
16. Romans 3:10-28
17. Ephesians 4:11-16



SCRIPTURE – Copy the text you will study.

OBSERVATION – Try one or two: paraphrase, outline, ask questions, summarize, list key words.

APPLICATION –

Knowing that (Be sure to write the timeless principle here):

I will (specific and measurable action step):

I will ask _____ to support me and to hold me accountable.

PRAYER – Pray or write a prayer about your application:

TELL – Tell someone what you learned today.