

How to Study the Bible:: The SOAP and Soak Method

If you're wondering how to study the Bible, I'd love to give you a glimpse into the easy method I use every day.

All you need is you, your Bible, and 5 minutes, and you'll soon be digging into God's Truth for yourself! I'm using the acronym SOAP to help you remember the steps:

S - Scripture Wondering how to study the Bible? Try this easy method and you'll be surprised at the hidden treasures you discover in Scripture! Write down the Bible passage you'll be studying. This can be one verse or several. I've found that writing helps me focus on each word individually and on the passage as a whole. It also helps me soak it in and meditate on it.

(And for those who have short attention spans [...squire!]) this really helps hone our focus on the task of studying Scripture instead of looking at the cobwebs in our kitchen. Ahem. Not that I would know...)

O - Observations

Examine the text and write down what you notice.

What jumps out to you in the passage?

Who is it written by? Who is it written to?

What's one thing you didn't notice before?

What seems interesting or unusual?

What comes before and after the text?

Is there repetition, comparison, or contrast?

These observations may start with the obvious (i.e., Jesus spent time with his disciples), but will gradually become deeper.

A - Applications

Apply God's Word to your life in a practical way. This is the part where you personalize your study of Scripture. As you read over the text, how does it apply to you? Is there a specific action you need to take or a confession you need to make?

If it's an action, try to make it SMART: specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time-bound.

P - Prayer

Respond to God's Word with your own words. Accumulating head knowledge about God is of little use; it's heart transformation He's after, and that's only possible through the work of the Holy Spirit.

Pray that the seed (the Scripture you just studied) falls on good soil in your heart, so that it will take root and produce fruit. Praise God for His attributes revealed in the passage. Confess any sin that has come to light during this time of studying.

Thank Him for His Word and His care. And ask the Holy Spirit to continue growing you into a disciple of Jesus.

S - The S stands for Scripture- Read the chapter for the day. Then choose 1-2 verses and write them out word for word. (There is no right or wrong

choice - just let the Holy Spirit guide you.)

O - The O stands for Observation - Look at the verse or verses you wrote out. Write 1 or 2 observations. What stands out to you? What do you learn about the character of God from these verses? Is there a promise, command or teaching?

A - The A stands for Application - Personalize the verses. What is God saying to you? How can you apply them to your life? Are there any changes you need to make or an action to take?

K - The K stands for Kneeling in Prayer - Pause, kneel and pray. Confess any sin God has revealed to you today. Praise God for His word. Pray the passage over your own life or someone you love. Ask God to help you live out your applications.

SOAK God's word into your heart and squeeze every bit of nourishment you can out of each day's scripture reading. Soon you will find your life transformed by the renewing of your mind!

What to use

- 1. The Pigma Micron ". 005"**
- 2. MUJI pens ". 38"**
- 3. Zebrite Eco Double-Ended Highlighters (Fine Point) slay it.**
- 4. palomino blackwing pearl pencils**

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Do you have friends who want to learn how to study the Bible? Share this post and encourage them today!