

SOAP Bible Study Method “Under Construction”

The SOAP Bible study method is easy to follow, easy to trim down to available time, and includes the life-changing piece of applying the Word to your life. Each letter in “SOAP” stands for one step of the process: **Scripture**, **Observation**, **Application**, and **Prayer**.

Step 1: What passage of **Scripture** you will be studying

- Stick to a plan
- Be intentional in your reading, not haphazard.
- Read the passage several times in several different versions
- Using a study Bible can be extremely helpful in learning the context of the verses you’re reading. Study bibles have important facts of who wrote the verse, the time period and culture of that time period and may also include the author’s (of the study) personal thoughts. It’s important to form your own thoughts and perspective first and then use the authors in addition to or to help gain a different perspective.
- Choose one to three verses that are particularly meaningful to you and write them out

Step 2: **Observation** - What does the passage say?

- Who wrote this passage?
- To whom is this passage written?
- What is the message of these verses?
- What words or phrases stand out to me?
- Do these verses remind me of any other verses or passages of Scripture?
- Was this written before or after Jesus lived? Before or after the resurrection?

Step 3: **Application** - How do I apply this to my life?

- Ask “what is the Holy Spirit saying to me through this passage?” Think about your words, your behavior, your relationships, your job, your family. Nothing should be off-limits to the Holy Spirit.
- Ask yourself, “How should my life change because of what I’ve read and learned today?”
- Focus on just one or two
- Take note and write down those action steps

Step 4: **Prayer**

- Pray for wisdom and a heart to learn
- Pray over what you read today
- Pray about the actions steps you’ve written down
- Utilize a tool like the [Acts Method](#).
 - Adoration: The first element of prayer should be adoration, or praise. Tell God what you adore about Him and His character.

- Confession: We all fall short of God's perfect character. Daily, as we reflect upon the previous day or the current day, we have room to confess sin to our perfect, forgiving and holy God.
- Thanks: Give thanks in all circumstances and at all times. It is important to take a moment to thank God as we reflect upon each of our days. Where is God showing you common grace and mercy in your day to day life?
- Supplication: Or said differently, petition. This is where we bring our requests to God. Here we bring Him our needs and the needs of others. This is where we Pray for One, praying by name for those that don't know Jesus and for opportunities to share the love of Jesus.

Example

Using Psalm 19 as our text, I'll walk you through an example of what you might write as you go through the SOAP Bible Study method.

Scripture

- Verse 14: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my Rock, and my Redeemer.
- Verse 14 paraphrase: O LORD, You are my Rock and my Redeemer. Help me to always say and think things that will honor and please you.

Observation

- The psalmist, David, wrote this as a hymn of praise to God.
- In verse 14, he is praying to the LORD, asking that he would always make choices with his mind, heart, and tongue that are pleasing to the LORD.

Application

- I know that if I think about the Word and speak about Jesus, my words and thoughts will be acceptable. But I cannot do that all day.
- I will need to be more conscious of what I am thinking, and what I am saying.
- Specifically, when gossiping starts at work, I will walk away or speak up – speaking up is preferable, but not always possible.
- Also, I will post verses in my cubicle so that I have uplifting and God-honoring thoughts to think of while I'm working.

Prayer

- Lord Jesus, help me to fill my mind with Your Word so that what comes out of my mouth will be God-pleasing words. Give me the courage to speak up for those being spoken against when gossiping starts at work.

“Under Construction” SOAP Devotional

Sermon Passage: Ephesians 4:17-24

SOAP Passage: Ephesians 4

Date:

Scripture: What verses are you focusing in on from the passage?

Observations: Make at least 15 observations (using questions provided in the “how to”)

Application: How does this passage apply to my life?

Prayer: After praying, write down a short recap of your prayer.

Reflective Question for the week: The Holy Spirit is in the process of making you more like Jesus. As you self-examine, what areas still need some TLC?

“Under Construction” SOAP Devotional

Sermon Passage: Ephesians 4:17-24

SOAP Passage: 1 Corinthians 15

Date:

Scripture: What verses are you focusing in on from the passage?

Observations: Make at least 15 observations (using questions provided in the “how to”)

Application: How does this passage apply to my life?

Prayer: After praying, write down a short recap of your prayer.

Reflective Question for the week: The Holy Spirit is in the process of making you more like Jesus. As you self-examine, what areas still need some TLC?

“Under Construction” SOAP Devotional

Sermon Passage: Ephesians 4:17-24

SOAP Passage: Romans 7

Date:

Scripture: What verses are you focusing in on from the passage?

Observations: Make at least 15 observations (using questions provided in the “how to”)

Application: How does this passage apply to my life?

Prayer: After praying, write down a short recap of your prayer.

Reflective Question for the week: The Holy Spirit is in the process of making you more like Jesus. As you self-examine, what areas still need some TLC?

“Under Construction” SOAP Devotional

Sermon Passage: Ephesians 4:17-24

SOAP Passage: 2 Corinthians 3

Date:

Scripture: What verses are you focusing in on from the passage?

Observations: Make at least 15 observations (using questions provided in the “how to”)

Application: How does this passage apply to my life?

Prayer: After praying, write down a short recap of your prayer.

Reflective Question for the week: The Holy Spirit is in the process of making you more like Jesus. As you self-examine, what areas still need some TLC?

“Under Construction” SOAP Devotional

Sermon Passage: Ephesians 4:17-24

SOAP Passage: Philippians 1

Date:

Scripture: What verses are you focusing in on from the passage?

Observations: Make at least 15 observations (using questions provided in the “how to”)

Application: How does this passage apply to my life?

Prayer: After praying, write down a short recap of your prayer.

Reflective Question for the week: The Holy Spirit is in the process of making you more like Jesus. As you self-examine, what areas still need some TLC?