

Scripture Observation Application Prayer

12 minutes a day. Most people can read through the entire Bible on an average of 12 minutes a day. Bible reading, especially when combined with a simple devotional plan, can be a powerful tool for connecting with God through the Bible.

How to SOAP

Scripture – Read the daily passages. Select one short passage from your daily reading that stood out to you. Usually just one or two verses or part of a verse. Write that passage in your SOAP journal.

Observation – What drew you to this passage? What do you notice about the context or the main message? What words or ideas jump out to you?

Application - Ask God how He wants you to apply this passage to your own life (not someone else!).

Prayer - Pray the scripture or your observations for yourself or for others. Many people combine A and P into a single section. Do what works best for you.

A SOAP Example

S: Galatians 1:10. Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

O: How much of my life do I waste trying to be liked, accepted or celebrated by people? How often do I make life decisions based on the opinions of those who don't love me or God? Why am I so consumed with winning their approval instead of pleasing Jesus?

A: Today I want to run every decision I make through the filter of pleasing God. I choose to believe that if I please God with my decisions and life, it will be the best for me and will honor God and others.

P: Oh God, please give me the strength today to make hard decisions. Help me to be so confident in my identity as your child that I don't place other's opinions and direction above yours. Give me the courage in Jesus' name. Amen.

Suggestions

Before you start, **ask God to show you one thing to feed your soul today** (Psalm 107:9).

Don't get bogged down. Skim through long lists of names, genealogies, construction details and ceremonial law. These have great value for studying history and theology but SOAP is your devotional plan so feel free to skim portions that are less helpful for that.

Bible, journal, pen and daily reading plan. Bring these every day.

Read the Current Day. If you miss days, always read the current day first. If you want to catch up, do that when you have extra time or just skip them and keep up with the current reading. Many people give up when they get several days behind. Always reading the current day prevents that.

Pray scripture back to God. Look for things to pray for yourself or others. Write your initials (or theirs) next to parts you pray.

Things you don't understand. Focus on the parts you do understand and on what God is saying to you through His word. You may want to keep a list of things to research later but don't derail your devotions.

Discuss it! Discuss your devotions with others regularly. Everyday is great!

Suggested Resource: *Divine Mentor* by Wayne Cordiero