

Small Group Bible Study or Personal Journaling using S.O.A.P., an acronym for:

SCRIPTURE

Write down the Bible passage you'll be studying.

This can be one verse or several. I've found that writing the verse helps me to focus on each word individually, and on the passage as a whole. It also helps me soak it in and meditate on each word. It helps to look up key words in Hebrew or Greek lexicons. Here are a few online aids. Biblestudy Tools <https://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/greek/> and BibleHub <https://biblehub.com/lexicon>

OBSERVATION

Examine the text and write down what you notice.

- Who is it written by? Who is it written to?
- What jumps out to you in the passage?
- 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?
- Are there any scripture cross references? If there are, what are the differences in the writings?

APPLICATION

Apply God's Word to your life. The bible is meant to be LIVED PRACTICALLY! As you read over the text, ASK YOURSELF, how does it apply to YOU? Is there a specific action you need to take or a confession you need to make? If so, make it a SMART; Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Timely. This is where the transformation begins.

PRAYER

Prayer is merely talking to God in your own words and listening as God talks back to you. This is how you develop a relationship with God. Prayer takes the scripture out of the Bible and allows it to SOAK inside of you. Accumulating head knowledge about God is of little use; it's heart transformation that makes us like Christ. This transformation takes place through the work of the Holy Spirit as we yield ourselves in prayer and meditation.

Some components of your prayer, can be: admiration, thanksgiving, revelations, questions, responses, applications, opportunities for discipleship, growth, and listening to what the Holy Spirit will say back to you. Pray for your continued walk with the Holy Spirit.