

Devotions For Students//God's Word

S.O.A.P. Bible Study Method

It is one thing to simply read Scripture, but when you interact with it, when you learn to slow down to REALLY read it, suddenly the words start popping off the page. By SOAPing your verses, you are able to dig deeper into Scripture and “see” more than if you simply read the verses and then went on your merry way. Let me encourage you to take the time to S.O.A.P. the daily verses and see for yourself how much more you get out of your daily reading.

S - Scripture - Physically write out Scripture that jumps out at you or sticks out to you.

O - Observation - What do you see in the verse that you're reading? Who is the audience? Is there a repetition of words? What words stand out to you? What themes or topics stick out to you?

A - Apply - This is when God's Word becomes personal. What is God saying to me today? How can I apply what I just read to my own personal life? What changes do I need to make? Is there an action that I need to take?

P - Prayer - Pray God's Word back to Him. If He has revealed something to you during this time in His Word, pray about it. Confess if He has revealed some sin that is in your life.

As you work through the follow devotions and Bible reading, make it personal. Begin each devotion by praying and asking God to take away distractions and to speak clearly to you through His Word. Remember that you are engaging with the very Word of God. He will speak to you through His Word. Enjoy this time with our Creator!

Scripture Memory

Each month, we will have a verse or group of verses to memorize together as a Studentz Ministry. Scripture memory can be hard for most but we want to encourage it in your life. This helps us make Scripture a part of who we are as we place it in our hearts. Scripture memory starts with desire and commitment. We must have a desire to memorize the Word and commit to do it. Accountability helps with keeping our commitment to memorize the Word so consider having a family member and/or a friend help hold you accountable to your desire and commitment to memorize Scripture.

A method to help you memorize Scripture is through repetition. Take a verse or two and read it aloud 10 times and then try to recite it 10 times aloud, looking at it as needed. This should only take about 15 minutes a day. Once the verse is memorized, continue to review it daily and soak in it reflecting on the truths in it. Remember, we are not just memorizing Scripture to “check a box,” but are memorizing Scripture to put God's Word in our heart so we can continue to grow in our relationship with Jesus and fight the schemes and temptations of the enemy when they come.

Memory Verse for January

John 3:16-18

16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

Devotions For Students

Lesson 2: God's Word - The Word in the World

DAY 1 - January 20

Read Exodus 10-12; Psalm 20

SOAP Method

S - Scripture

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.” -- Colossians 3:16

The Mississippi River is over 2,500 miles long and flows from the Canadian border all the way to the Gulf of Mexico. This giant waterway begins in a lake in Minnesota that is fed by a stream only about three feet wide. It is amazing that such a small stream can be the starting point for the largest river in America

The Apostle Paul tells us to let the words of Christ have their starting point in a very small place: ***our hearts***. But notice what a huge impact results. The words of Christ make us wise, they can be used to teach and counsel others, and they can burst out in the form of psalms and hymns.

The Word of God is just plain awesome!

As you go about your life this week here are a few things to think about:

- Are you really thankful to have the Word of God so readily available to read and study?
- Are you letting the Word of God change your life?

Consider some ways you can let the richness of the words of Christ impact your life in your conversations, in your music choices, and in your decision-making.

Pray and ask God to help you treasure and more effectively use His Word in your life today.

O - Observation

A - Apply

P - Prayer

DAY 2 - January 21

Read Exodus 13-15; Psalm 21

SOAP Method

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Apply

P - Prayer

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” -- Colossians 3:17

You don't have to go far to find people who claim to be representing God. Whether it's someone handing you a brochure at your front door or a spokesman on television, lots of people claim to be representing God for various reasons, some good and some not so good. So how do you know what to believe and what not to believe?

Paul said to let everything you do or say be as a representative of Jesus Christ. Now since Jesus was God in human form and we have His teachings in our Bible, it would be logical to assume that the way to test if people are truly representing Christ is to see how well what they're saying matches up with the Scriptures. Paul not only gave us a great way to live our lives, as a representative of Jesus, but he also gave us a sure fire TRUTH TESTING TOOL when it comes to knowing what to believe.

So what's the next step?

- Make knowing God's Word a priority in your life. Find a way to study and learn more about the Bible.
- Don't just go along with what others say about God or the teachings in the Bible. Use your computer or study tools to do some research and make sure what you are hearing is biblical.
- Learn to treasure mentors who are teaching you the truth in the Bible like your pastor, youth pastor, or Bible study leader.

DAY 3 - January 22

Read Exodus 16-18; Psalm 22

SOAP Method

S - Scripture

“. . . And soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.” -- Titus 2:8

When people who aren't followers of Christ criticize Christians and the Christian faith what are some of the things they point out? Write them here:

O - Observation

One of the things some people say is that there are many ways to God, not just through Jesus. Can you think of a verse that gives correct teaching on the way to God? Write the verse here.

A - Apply

“. . . but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, . . .” - 1 Peter 3:15

How would you defend the hope that is in you through Jesus? Write it out here.

P - Prayer

God's Word reminds us of this hope and the Truth we stand in. Always be ready to defend the hope you have and stand firm in the Truth you believe!

DAY 4 - January 23

Read Exodus 19-21; Psalm 23

SOAP Method

S - Scripture

Take your Bible and look up **Hebrews 4:12**. Write out the verse below:

What are two phrases used to describe the Word of God?

O - Observation

What are the two things this passage tells us the Bible can do?

A - Apply

Think of this passage like a door that swings both ways. On the one hand, the Bible helps us to look honestly at our thoughts and our lives to make sure our hearts are sincere and our motives are pure. On the other hand, God's Word is full of living power to save, to heal, and to change lives. So it has the power to save us as it comes in our lives and the power to change others as it goes out from our lives.

That is POWER!

Write out a prayer to the Lord giving thanks and praise for the power of His Word! Once you write it out, pray it back to Him aloud! Write it below.

P - Prayer

DAY 5 - January 24

Read Exodus 22-24; Psalm 24

SOAP Method

S - Scripture

*"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." --
Psalm 119:11*

The word *hidden* in this passage means to place something that's treasured as one's most valuable possession in a secret place. This is a powerful picture of the Word of God.

It is interesting though...God's Word is a treasure that should be "hidden" in our hearts but it is also a treasure that must be shared to others. We share God's Word with unbelievers we encounter each day and we also share God's Word with believers as accountability and encouragement.

What is amazing is that the more you delight in the Word and intake the Word, the more it will come out of you! As you hide God's Word in your heart, the Lord will use His Word hidden inside of you as you speak to others. It will literally become part of your everyday vocabulary and conversations, intentionally or randomly! Give it a try...

O - Observation

Refer back to the first page and continue to work on memorizing John 3:16-18. Review the exercises listed on the first page to help you. Ask your parents to memorize it with you and ask them to hold you accountable to memorizing it by the end of the month! Talk about what these verses mean and how they effect our lives as Christians. Pray for opportunities to share these verses with others with boldness!

A - Apply

P - Prayer

FURTHER READING

DAY 6 - January 25

Read Exodus 25-27; Psalm 25

SOAP Method

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Apply

P - Prayer

FURTHER READING

DAY 7 - January 26

Read Exodus 28-29; Psalm 26

SOAP Method

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Apply

P - Prayer