

## Devotions For Students//God's Word

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### 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

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### Lesson 1: God's Word - The Scripture

#### DAY 1 - January 13

Read Genesis 41-42; Psalm 13

#### SOAP Method

##### S - Scripture

##### O - Observation

##### A - Apply

##### P - Prayer

**Let's get it out of the way right now, shall we?** Let's cut right to the chase on the front end of this thing.

When you hear the words "Bible study" or "Quiet time" what thoughts come to mind? How would you describe your reaction? Seriously. Don't just pass this by. Take a moment and look at the choices below. When you think of spending time reading your Bible, what response best applies to how you feel?

- I get pretty pumped about it.
- It's OK, I guess.
- No reaction really at all. Kind of like . . . blah.
- I'm pretty turned off. Overwhelmed. Bored. I just don't get it.

So, here's the deal: Starting out here is not a bad place, no matter what your response was. The important thing is that you actually think about your attitude toward the Bible, and that you consider doing something about it.

#### **Something to think about:**

Do this over the next few days. (For real.) Ask God to work on you and your attitude toward knowing the Bible better. Ask Him to awaken a desire in you to actually WANT to meet Him in the pages of the Bible. And ask with the expectancy that He will do it.

## DAY 2 - January 14

Read Genesis 43-45; Psalm 14

SOAP Method

### S - Scripture

“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?”  
-- Psalms 42:1-2

**What does this verse have to do with God’s Word you ask? Good question.**

A healthy approach to God’s Word starts with a love for God. See, you have to value God before you can begin to have a positive, joyful approach to digging into the Bible. Knowing God has to be important to you. But it also has to be more than just gaining knowledge of God.

### O - Observation

Look how the psalmist talks about his feelings toward God. *He says that he loves God the way a thirsty deer loves water.* The deer loves water because it is life! If the deer doesn’t get to the stream, it dies. Do you look at God that way? Do you desire Him so badly that not being with Him feels like a life or death situation? Something to think about, isn’t it?

But the real takeaway here is the question in verse 2. “*Where can I go to meet God?*” What a question! And the answer for us is why we’re talking about these verses in the first place. God’s Word, the Bible, is the main way God has chosen for us to be able to encounter Him. It’s the pathway He gave us to use to meet Him.

### A - Apply

**We have to reframe the way we think about Bible study.** We have to stop seeing it as a chore, or a check-box that “good Christians” must check off each day. We have to begin to see it as an opportunity to meet God face-to-face!

### P - Prayer

Your challenge is to begin to change the way you think about the Bible. Knowing God is important. And His Word, the Bible, is the best way for us to grow closer to Him. Let that sink in this week as you go through each day.

**DAY 3 - January 15**

**Read Genesis 46-47; Psalm 15**

**SOAP METHOD**

**S - Scripture**

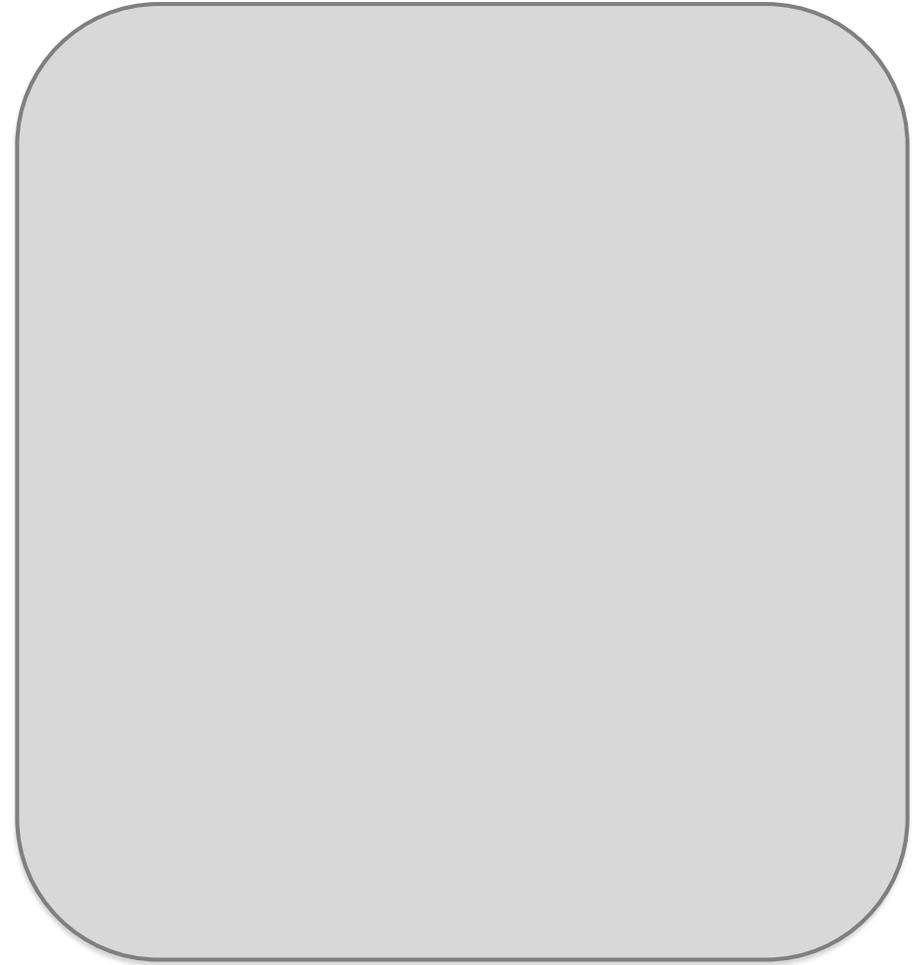
**O - Observation**

**A - Apply**

**P - Prayer**

**Take a few moments today and use the space below (or your own journal or note taking app) to write a note to God.** Seriously. Write a note to God telling Him the three things that keep you from committing to spending time in God's Word on a regular basis. Ask Him to help you find some solutions to these issues.

If you *do* spend time with God regularly, tell Him your favorite things about reading the Bible.



When you're all done, pray to God thanking Him that He'd make Himself known to us through the Bible.

## **DAY 4 - January 16**

**Read Genesis 48-50; Psalm 16**

### **SOAP METHOD**

#### **S - Scripture**

#### **Read this quote and meditate on it today:**

*“The Bible is alive, it speaks to me. It has feet, it runs after me. It has hands, it lays hold on me.” -- Martin Luther*

Can you say that you think of the Bible in this way or in similar terms? Or is it more of just a “thing” to you, an app on your phone, or a dusty book under your bed?

**Pray that God would help you see how meaningful His Word can be in your life.** Be open to the Spirit’s leading in this area.

#### **O - Observation**

#### **A - Apply**

#### **P - Prayer**

## DAY 5 - January 17

Read Exodus 1-3; Psalm 17

### SOAP METHOD

#### S - Scripture

#### O - Observation

#### A - Apply

#### P - Prayer

“Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long.” -- Psalms 119:97

**So this week has focused on a more truthful look at how many of us approach the Bible.** But, we can confidently end on a positive note. This verse shows us that a true love for God’s Word is possible. We can come to see God’s Word as life! We can come to look forward to reading the Bible knowing that we will be meeting God Himself in the pages.

*You can’t change your attitude overnight.* But, you can take action. Take a second and think about three things you could do to put yourself on the track to having this type of love for the Bible. Write down your thoughts. Then commit to doing what it takes to put them to action.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**Ask God to give you strength to follow through on your plan.**

**FURTHER READING**

**January 18th - Exodus 4-6; Psalm 18**

**SOAP Method**

**S - Scripture**

**O - Observation**

**A - Apply**

**P - Prayer**

**FURTHER READING**

**January 19th - Exodus 7-9; Psalm 19**

**SOAP Method**

**S - Scripture**

**O - Observation**

**A - Apply**

**P - Prayer**