

#### How to Read the Bible

**S.O.A.P** provides a helpful framework for walking through the Scriptures. It is not a magic formula, but simply serves as a way to help you process what you're reading and listen for God's voice as you explore His story.

#### **SOAP: Four Helpful Steps to Exploring Scripture**

### **S** Scripture

- Read Scripture & read it slowly. Some may even suggest reading out loud or at a whisper.
- Look for something that sticks out a word, a phrase, a person then stop & read it again. "Mull it over" in your mind to allow it to sink in.

# O Observation

- Think deeper about the passage "What is God saying to me?"
- Write the scripture in a journal or paraphrase it into your own words.

## **A** Application

- Personalize what you read by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now - "What does this mean for me?"
- Perhaps it's encouragment, or maybe God is offering correction for a certain area of your life - write it down & follow His direction.

# P Prayer

- There are no "magic words," you just talk to God about what you're thinking & thank Him for what He is revealing to you.
- Prayer is a two-way conversation, so don't forget to listen to what God has to say!



"Obedience is the thing living in active response to the living God. The most important question we ask of this text is not, 'What does this mean,' but 'What can I obey?' A simple act of obedience will open up our lives to this text far more quickly than any number of Bible studies and dictionaries and concordances."

#### Eugene Peterson, "Eat This Book"

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