

S.O.A.P. Journaling Method

Before you read scripture, pray that the Holy Spirit would teach you as you read (1 Corinthians 2:10-16). Then read and write down what God is showing you in the following categories.

S - Scripture

- Write out a verse or passage that stands out to you

O - Observation

- If a new book of a Bible, check out a Book Summary (ie. gotquestions.org) before reading - Who is the author of the book? Who is the author writing to? Why is the author writing?
 - *This is so important as we have to acknowledge that God inspired the author to write the book for a specific reason to a specific audience.
- Write what the verse or passage says in context - What comes before the verse or passage, What come after the verses or passage, Note repetition of words, phrases, Cause-and-effect/*ifs* and *thens*, Questions and answers, Comparisons and contrasts, Bring to mind other verses/passages in Scripture (Cross Referencing), Themes, Key phrases in an effort to best interpret and apply what is being communicated
- Questions to ask and answer like - What does this say about God? What does this say about Jesus? What does this say about people? What does this say about the role of the church in the world?

A - Application

- How this passage applies to you:
 - What can I worship God for?
 - How does this cause me to look to Christ?
 - What would change if I truly believed this?
 - Is there a sin to forsake?
 - Is there a promise to claim?
 - Is there an example to follow?
 - Is there a command to obey, something to put into action?
 - Is there something to be thankful for?
 - Is there something to share with others?
 - How will I commit to obey this passage this week?
 - With whom will I share what I have learned from this passage?

P - Prayer

- Write out a prayer to God about what He has shown you
- Pray that prayer out loud over your life, others, and your prayer list