

The S.O.A.P. Method of Bible Reading

S.O.A.P. stands for **Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer**, and is a simple method of Bible journaling developed by Pastor Wayne Cordeiro. It's a great way to get more out of reading your Bible, and allows you to record your thoughts, emotions and the revelation you receive from God's Word.

Getting Started

1. Time and Place: Find a quiet time and space to read your Bible, preferably at the same time each day. Many people find that reading scripture in the morning helps get their day off to a focused start.

2. What to Read: You can follow a reading plan through the entire Bible, or the New Testament (find a reading plan in "The Bible" app, or at YouVersion.com). Or you can simply select one book of the Bible to work through at a time. If you don't know where to start, pick a Gospel (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John), and then work your way through it and on through the rest of the New Testament.

3. Use a Journal: You can use a paper journal, or record your daily entries using Evernote or MS Word, etc.

S.O.A.P.

Scripture – Read slowly and thoughtfully through a portion of Scripture. Pick a verse or two that stood out to you and write it in your journal.

Observation – Now write some observations about the verse(s) or passage. What is this passage or verse saying? What does it teach about God? About people? How is Christ revealed in this?

Application – Now write a few sentences on how this passage applies to your life. Is there truth about God that you are to believe? Is there a promise to receive and thank God for? Is the Holy Spirit convicting you of something you need to do or stop doing in light of God's truth?

Prayer – Now write out a prayer to God in response to this Scripture. This is a way to turn God's Word to *you* back to *Him*. Be honest and express your heart to Him. God always listens and He delights in your prayers (Ps. 34:15; Prov. 15:8).

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Devoted

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Read: 2 Samuel 22:1-23:23, Acts 2:1-47, Psalm 122:1-9,
Proverbs 16:19-20

S - Acts 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

O - God was able to do great things through the early church because they made God the priority in their daily lives together as evidenced through their study of Scripture, acts of compassion, worship, and prayers.

A - It's not enough to be devoted to God on my own - God calls me to seek His grace, His truth, and His power in relationships with Jesus and others.

P - Father, I want to be devoted to you like the early church - 100% for You. Free me to serve You alone in my day-to-day life. Help me to order my days around opening up my heart and eyes to You through Scripture, acts of kindness, worship, and prayer. Most of all, I want You to move in grace and power in the lives of my family, my school, and my church. Show up in my relationships like You did back then.
