

Sample Devotional Bible Study Using the SOAP Method

By Gloria Fowler

Passage: 7 But blessed are those who trust in the Lord
and have made the Lord their hope and confidence.
8 They are like trees planted along a riverbank,
with roots that reach deep into the water.
Such trees are not bothered by the heat
or worried by long months of drought.
Their leaves stay green,
and they never stop producing fruit. – Jeremiah 17:7-8

In my journal I wrote:

Scripture

trust hope confidence
roots that reach deep into the water
not bothered by heat or worried by long months of drought
leaves stay green
producing fruit

Observation

I observe in this scripture that those who trust, hope and have confidence in the Lord are blessed. What kind of blessing? Is it material? No, I think it's talking about spiritual blessings. Even if this tree is faced with heat and drought, it is not affected because its roots go deep into the water. I believe that if I am deeply rooted in Christ, whatever times may come I will not be affected by them, emotionally or spiritually. Rather, I will continue to produce spiritual fruits and stay healthy in the Lord.

Application

It's a tough time for my family right now, as we have been faced with job loss for a few months now. I see more and more going through this as a result of the economic crisis. How am I going to react during this time? How am I going to encourage others to react during this time? It's so easy to panic and feel depressed and frustrated, but I believe that the answer is trusting in the Lord and being deeply rooted in the Lord. It's so hard to trust, but the scripture promises that when we trust we bear fruit. What does it mean for me to trust in the Lord? What does it mean for me to be deeply rooted in the Lord? I need to meditate on the Word of God. I need to pray because that is how I tap into the source, to the water. I am going to continue to wake up at 5:30 AM during the season of Lent and pray for an hour. I am going to read the scripture and pray with my husband in the morning. I want to trust God, be connected to God and experience the blessing that comes from it.

Prayer

Lord, help me to trust you in every circumstance. Sometimes, I'm affected by what goes on around me and what happens to me, but, Lord, I know that I can be strong and be your witness if I am deeply rooted in you. Help me to draw to you and be connected to you daily because you are my source, my strength and my help. Help me to be like the tree planted by the streams of water. Thank you Lord for speaking to me. In Jesus name, Amen.