

# START HERE!

*Have you been reading the Bible, but don't feel like you're getting anything out of it? Follow the **SOAPS** steps by yourself or with your family. Make sure everyone gets a chance to work through the steps together. Give everyone a chance to talk. That way everyone gets something out of the time spent in God's word.*

**STUDY:** Read the passage all the way through at least one time. Don't stop for anything. Try to take it all in. Take some time to look up words you don't know. Reread difficult to understand or long sentences.

**OBSERVE:** Retell what you just read. If it was a story, recount the highpoints of the plot in your own words. If it was a part of a New Testament letter, restate the argument or the focus of the passage. If it was poetry, try to decide the main point the poet was trying to get across. The important thing is to take the biblical words and restate them in your own way. If you can do that, you understand the passage.

**APPLY:** Decide what this passage means you should do differently with your life. Whether we're reading story, poetry, theology, or prophecy, all Scripture is written to change our lives. How does the author of this passage want you to change the way you act or think?

**PRAY:** Pray back to God whatever you've learned. Ask for his strength in applying it to your life. Thank him for his word. Affirm the truths about him that you've learned.

**SHARE:** Go tell someone what you learned. Share it with your friends, coworkers, small group, or pastor. Biblical truth is meant to be spread around, not hid under a bushel!