

DWELLING IN THE WORD

S.O.A.P.S.

- **SCRIPTURE:** Write out one or more verses that are particularly meaningful to you, today.
- **OBSERVATION:** Rewrite those verses or key points in your own words to better understand.
- **APPPLICATION:** Reflect on, and write down, what it might mean for you to live into what the Holy Spirit is placing on your heart.
- **PRAYER:** Write out a prayer to God in light of what you have been reflecting on.
- **SHARING:** Ask God with whom, or how, He wants you to share or embody what you've learned.

SCRIPTURE – *Approach to reading and help on choosing what you might read*

- Start with a moment of silence or prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to speak. Read slowly and intentionally, even out loud, don't rush. Read as though you are listening to a friend who's telling a great story, or sharing some important wisdom.
- There are a multitude of trusted reading plans available for reading the Bible. Here is a website that has a great selection of some good ones - <https://createdisciples.com/top-11-best-bible-reading-plans>
- Another good place to start would simply be by starting in one of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John) and read either a chapter or a section of a chapter each day.

OBSERVATION – *Questions/thoughts to aid in writing your interpretation of the verse(s)*

- What do we learn about God and how He relates to the world (creation, people, etc.)? What commands, principles, wisdom, warnings, or actions does God communicate or show?
- What "form" (eg. poetry, history, wisdom, letter, etc.) has God chosen to communicate through, and where is this placed in God's history?
- What do we learn about world in this passage? How do we see people's brokenness and/or redemption?
- How does this passage point to Jesus and His Gospel – it's "true and perfect" fulfillment?

APPLICATION – *Questions/thoughts to help in applying the verse(s) to your life*

- What is God inviting me to trust in, believe in and/or understand more deeply?
- What is God seeking to transform in me? What fruit is He desiring to grow in me?
- What might God be inviting me to step into, to do, or to obey?
- How might God be trying to encourage me? How might God be inviting me to rest in His finished work found in Christ?

PRAYER – *Questions/Thoughts to aid in your writing your prayer*

- Adoration – How might I praise God?
- Confession – What do I need to confess to God?
- Thanksgiving – In what ways, or for what, can I thank God for?
- Supplication – How is God moving me to think about and pray for both myself and others (specific people, situations, circumstances)?
- Silence – Spend a moment in quiet listening to anything else God may be laying on your heart and mind.

SHARING – *Questions/thoughts to help you think about who or how you can share what you've learned*

- Who do you know who needs to hear what you've heard?
- Who may need you to live out what you have learned with them?
- What "Good News" needs to be lived out with others?

An Example of S.O.A.P.S.:

S – "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," declares the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts." [Isaiah 55:8-9]

O – As a human, I'm limited in what I know and what I know how to do. God is not limited in any way. He sees and knows EVERYTHING. He can do ANYTHING.

A – Since God knows everything and His ways are beyond even what I can comprehend, I'll have a much fuller life if I follow Him instead of relying on my own way of doing things.

P – Lord, I don't know how to live a life that pleases You and helps others. My ways sometimes lead to mistakes and regrets. My thoughts can lead to hurting myself or others. Please teach me Your ways and Your thoughts, instead. Let your Holy Spirit guide me as I follow You. Help me to rest secure in Your grace and wisdom.

S – I will share these verses and how they encouraged me with my friend, Bill, who is going through a difficult time and needs direction for important decisions he's facing. Hopefully I can encourage him with them.