

# **SOAP Bible Study Method**

## **Scripture:**

As you read scripture, take your time with the verses and allow God to speak to you. Once you're done, you look for a verse that spoke to you or stood out amongst the others and write this Scripture in your journal.

## **Observation:**

Consider the verse that God focused your attention on. Is there something that you feel or believe God wants you to notice? Ask the Holy Spirit for discernment and to reveal what it is that God is revealing in His word. Write or paraphrase this observation down in your journal.

You can observe anything. Perhaps it's the actual story that you're reading, and you're intrigued about how God is using that person for great things. Perhaps you feel that God wants to use you in a similar way, but you're not ready to take that first step. Write all of these observations down. What are you feeling? Is there more that you want to read about and study? Have you encountered this in the past? What was your response then?

## **Application:**

As you apply the Scripture and your observations, consider how you can apply it to your life. Personalize it by asking yourself how the passage applies to your life. Maybe it's encouragement, instruction, correction for an area of your life or revelation of a new promise.

What will you do about what you've encountered today? Will you simply file it away until it gets too big to ignore or will you take one small step in the direction you feel God's calling you towards? Create an action plan so that you can take that next step.

## **Prayer:**

Pray and ask God to reveal his Word to you. God answers, but remember it may not be the way you want Him to, like how you'd answer your children or friends. He may also not answer you in the timeframe that you've set. But be assured, He does answer, in His perfect timing.

As you pray, be aware of how you feel and focus on listening with your ears, but also with your heart and mind. And continue to have that posture of active listening as you go about the day. Don't forget to come back and record how He answers your prayers; you'll not only develop a better understanding of God's love for you, but you'll also have a record of His faithfulness in your life.