

S.O.A.P.S. for Life Groups

Scripture Observation Application Prayer Share

Goal: To help build retention of knowledge and obedience to God's Word for transformation.

A Companion to pair with the 2026 Weekly Bible Reading Plan
<https://fccwashington.org/soap>

Why Share Practically? When someone does something with what they are learning, the retention percentage increases. If multiple people are reading the same bible plan, it can help motivate this habit and enhance someone's journey through scripture. *The Protege Effect*, which involves sharing or teaching what you have learned, is proven to increase retention. We don't just want to put God's word in our hearts; we want to keep it there.

*Psalm 119:11 - "I have stored up **your word** in my heart, that I might not sin against you".*

Why Share Biblically? When we share what we are gleaning from God's word, we help others grow (Proverbs 27:17), we are more likely to act on it ourselves as we create accountability (James 4:17), and we are obeying the great commission—"teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you"—Matthew 28:19.

*James 1:21-25 - Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. 22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. **Do what it says.** 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—**not forgetting what they have heard**, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.*



Discussion Approaches In Life Group

Option 1 – The Formal Share

Set Stage - Start with a brief prayer asking for the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion.

Share Scripture & Observations - Go around the group, having each person read their scripture (everyone turn to it) and share 1-2 key observations from the text. Open it up for additional observations and questions.

Discuss Application: Have the person who just shared their scripture and 1-2 observations, now share the application, how they plan to live out the truth, what God revealed, or areas for confession or encouragement.

*Repeat the last two steps for each person who wants to share.

Pray Together: Close by sharing specific prayer requests inspired by the shared observations and applications, praying for one another (could do this after each person shares and prays, or do it all at the end).



Option 2—The 5 Questions Informal Share

1. What is God teaching you through your readings this week?

Any themes, truths, or repeated ideas that kept coming up?

Anything you learned you didn't know, saw you never saw, or remembered that you forgot?

Share Scriptures and Observations

2. What is something you encountered in your readings this week that you had a question about?

Any words, happenings, actions, or verses that confused you or left you unsure.

Share Scripture and Observations

3. Where are you sensing God inviting you to grow or change in your character, relationships, priorities, or trust in Him?

What has challenged or convicted you the most? Something that stretched your thinking, exposed a habit, or pushed on your comfort zone.

Share Observations & Applications

4. What is one next step of obedience you're trying to take because of this?

Something practical you're working on this week?

Share Applications

5. How can we pray for you based on what God is doing in your life?

Not just needs, but support for what God is shaping in you in your reading. How can we help each other be doers of the word?

