You will not get through your Christian walk of faith without studying the Bible. Everything you need in life is in God’s Word. With it we find encouragement and guidance on our walk of faith. With it we learn about the gospel of Jesus Christ, the attributes of God, and God’s commandments. The Bible helps you to find the answer to things that science can’t give answers to, such as the meaning of life, and more. We must all get to know God more through His Word. Make it your goal to read your Bible daily.

* “Remember, Christ’s scholars must study upon their knees.” Charles Spurgeon
* “Merely reading the Bible is no use at all without we study it thoroughly, and hunt it through, as it were, for some great truth.” Dwight L. Moody
* “One thing I have noticed in studying the Word of God, and that is, when a man is filled with the Spirit he deals largely with the Word of God, whereas the man who is filled with his own Ideas refers rarely to the Word of God. He gets along without it, and you seldom see it mentioned in his discourses.” D.L. Moody
* “I never saw a useful Christian who was not a student of the Bible.” D. L. Moody

**Start off your study with the right attitude**

Ezra 7:10 - *This was because Ezra had determined to study and obey the Law of the Lord and to teach those decrees and regulations to the people of Israel.*

**Why Study the Bible?**

Hebrews 4:12 - *For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul and spirit, joints and marrow, as it judges the thoughts and purposes of the heart.*

**Studying Scripture will help you with everyday life, temptation, and sin.**

Proverbs 4:10-13 - *Listen, my son: accept my words, and you’ll live a long, long time. I have directed you in the way of wisdom, and I have led you along straight paths. When you walk, your step will not be hindered, and when you run, you will not stumble. Hold on to instruction, do not let it go! Guard wisdom because she is your life*

**Study so that you are not deceived by false teachings.**

1 John 4:1 - *Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to determine if they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.*

**Studying helps us server God better**

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - *16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

**Study to teach others and to be better prepared to answer questions.**

1 Peter 3:15 - *but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence*

**Study Scripture to transform your life.**

Romans 12:2 *- And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

So, what is the best way to study the bible? There are many different bible study methods and ways to study the bible. This evening we’ll look and discuss the SOAP Bible Study Method. This is often considered a great bible study method for beginners but really, it’s for anyone to use at any time! A lot of people tend to ask, “How to study the bible?” or have no idea where to start?

The important thing to remember about studying God’s Word and using bible study methods – it doesn’t have to be complicated or intimidating! It’s a sacred gift to us and the more time we spend in it, the more we grow closer to God and grow in our faith.

In fact, this is a simple bible study method. God’s Word is His heartbeat through scriptures. It’s God’s inspired Word of who He is, what Jesus’ servanthood and sacrifice shows, its God’s promises, purpose, and plan, and examples of His majestic displays of power and glory all throughout the bible.

Studying the bible is:

* Our standard for truth.
* Safeguarding ourselves from false doctrine.
* A roadmap for living.
* Knowledge, encouragement, guidance, direction, and hope for our daily lives.

We are to love God and love others. It’s difficult to love someone you do not know. In order to know God more, we have to spend time in His Word. It’s one thing to have head-knowledge of God, it’s quite another to be in a relationship with God because you’ve grown to know Him while setting aside time to be with Him.

As we hammered out now, there is no better way to grow to know God than being in and studying His Word! Tonight, we’ll look at the SOAP bible study method and explain what SOAP stands for, walk through a SOAP bible study method example!

**SOAP Bible Study Method**

When it comes to the SOAP Bible Study, there is no single “right way” to study the bible. God has given us the Holy Spirit and an open invitation to read the bible. He’s always waiting for us to meet Him and know Him more.

The SOAP method of bible study is an excellent tool and simple bible study method to take us from reading the bible to studying what the scriptures say and applying it to our lives. It’s a way to interact with His living Word.

**What Is The SOAP Method of Bible Study?**

The SOAP Bible study method is a tool for studying the bible and getting more out of God’s Word. You can apply it to any passage and it’s very straight-forward. Rest easy, no seminary is required! Pray before getting started thanking God for giving us this gift and asking Him to open your heart and mind to see Him through the pages. There is no one right way to study the bible. With all the bible study methods available, the SOAP method is a great way to begin!

**What does SOAP mean?**

What exactly is the SOAP bible study method? What does SOAP stand for?

The SOAP Bible Study Acronym:

* SOAP stands for: SCRIPTURE – OBSERVATION – APPLICATION – PRAYER

Let’s break each piece of the SOAP Bible Study Acronym down further.

**Scripture**

The scripture is the particular passage you’re using and then writing it out. Read the passage once and then write it. Writing it out allows it to soak into your mind and heart more intently.

Choose your passage by theme or topic or supplement the SOAP bible study method with a devotional you’re reading to take it deeper.

Another way to choose your passage is by going through a book of the bible reading a few verses a day. James and Philippians are short books to work through. Or you could choose chapters from Psalms or Proverbs.

These are all just suggestions – start anywhere that you’re interested in! Little by little God uses what we offer and works through all of it!

**Observation**

After you’ve read the passage, you’ll move on to the observation piece of the SOAP Bible Study Method. This is simply noting what the passage is about.

For example:

* Who is writing the passage?
* Who is the audience?
* What sticks out to you?
* Are there any words or phrases repeated?

**Application**

The application portion of the SOAP bible study method answers the question of how this particular passage can be applied to your life. How is it personal to you? How can you live this out? We have a personal God who desires a personal relationship with each of us.

This is where we apply His word and life transformation takes place. What changes do you need to make or what actions do you need to take to apply this passage to your life? The application portion is significant and where we get to make the decision of following after God. The best part, the Holy Spirit equips us!

James 1:5 NLT tells us, “If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you.” The lavish Giver gives…we need but ask!

We are never going forward by ourselves, but we do make the decision of our willingness to apply what we’ve read with a better understanding of what this teaches about God and ourselves.

**Prayer**

The final point for the SOAP Bible Study is prayer. As you’ve gone through the previous steps, it’s likely something struck a chord in your heart or made you question or pause. Pray asking God to continue to transform your mind as you seek after Him.

Ask God for help and willingness to apply what you’ve learned and seek His heart in your day.

* Thank God for His Word, His promises, and the hope He offers.
* Confess any sins that this passage may have revealed or that you know needs to be dealt with.
* Finally, commit your way to Him and seek His will in all you do. (Proverbs 3:6)

The SOAP bible study method can be applied to any passage. The more it is put into practice, the easier it will become to use. It’s a great bible study method for anyone.