S.O.A.P. Bible Study Method

Find a quiet place to study where you won't be disturbed and bring with you a Bible (NIV, ESV, or NLT) a notebook/journal, pen/pencil and highlighter. Before you begin pray that God would open your eyes to see what the Bible has for you today. Then follow this simple SOAP outline.

SCRIPTURE

Read the Scripture: Try reading it out loud or reading it in a different translation if you can.
What kind of scripture is it? Old/New Testament, historical, narrative, prophetic, poetry, songs, letter?
When was it written? When was the book your passage is found written? Some Bibles have an intro section at the beginning of each book with this kind of information. If not, try googling it!
Who wrote it and who was it written to?

OBSERVATION

People: Who are the characters involved in our passage and what is their significance?
Plot: What happens in the passage?
Peculiarities: Interesting observations, unknown words, repeated words, themes, or questions you have from the text. Does it connect to the passage before? (Hint: if you see a "therefore" you need to look and see what it is there for!)
Point: What do you think the point of this passage is? What is a key verse?

APPLICATION

Make it personal: God didn't just write scripture for the original recipients, it's also for us today. How does this passage of scripture apply to your life right now? Maybe it is an instruction, encouragement, command, a promise, or a change you need to make in a particular area of your life.

PRAYER

Ask God to give you the power to change. Pray that God would help use this scripture in your life to help transform you to be more like Jesus.

> **P**raise God for who he is and what he has done. (King, Lord, loving, gracious, just, thank Him.)
> **R**epent of any unconfessed sin in your life. (Repent: Turn away from sin, towards God.)
> **A**sk God for help in any areas of your life where you feel you need his help.
> **Y**our friends need prayer too so pray for those you care about: friends, family, leaders.

SOAP BIBLE STUDY METHOD WORKSHEET

Scripture

Observation

Application

Prayer