

BIBLE STUDY JOURNALING INSTRUCTIONS

Select a Scripture or a passage of Scripture and turn to it in your Bible. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal Jesus to you.

Read the passage(s). As you are reading, underline anything the Lord impresses on you as a personal word to be applied. When you read with an open heart, the Lord will give you words of encouragement, direction and correction. (2 Tim. 3:16)

When God has revealed a special lesson of life to you, turn to a fresh “SOAP” page and journal what God has just shown you. Record the main scripture. And follow the “SOAP” instructions.

Be sure to record your prayer!!!

Remember! This Prayer Journal is designed to serve you in your growth with Christ. You can be flexible in how you use it, but be sure to develop a healthy habit of spending time daily with the Lord.

Some have asked, “When is the best time for my devotions? In the morning or in the evening?”

The answer to that is, “The best time is when you’re at your best!” If you’re a morning person, do your devotions in the morning. If you’re an evening person, do your devotions at night. The bottom line is : “Jesus deserves your best, so give Him the best part of your day!”

S O A P

INSTRUCTIONS

This acrostic helps you remember the elements of how to include Bible Study into your quiet time. You can even use this method alone as a way to study scripture apart from your daily quiet times.

S = Scripture

Read the Scripture or a passage of Scripture. Write it down in your journal. Or, when reading large passages, write down the “gem” passage.

O = Observation

How would I explain the Scripture if I was teaching it to someone else? Write it in your own words. Check out any Scripture references and read them and write them in your own words.

A = Application

What does it mean to me? Meditate on the Scripture. Say it out loud. Apply whatever method helps you to understand what it means to you and how it applies to your life today.

P = Prayer

Pray for God to give you understanding of how He wants to use this Scripture in your heart and life. Ask Him to help you to hear and understand His Holy Word. Pause and listen!!! Ask Him to give you direction for the day, for the week, for your life. “Speak Lord! Your servant is listening!”

DATE:

S O A P

A

S

SCRIPTURE

O

OBSERVATION

APPLICATION

P

PRAYER

"How will I be different today because of what I have just read?"

Getting Close to God

by John Fischer

Draw close to God, and God will draw close to you. (James 4:8 NLT)

It's been this way since time began. God set it up so we would seek Him, and He would respond to us when we did. Is He playing hard to get? Well, He may be, only inasmuch as He wants a relationship with someone who wants one with Him, and the way you show that you do is by seeking Him. God will not force Himself on anyone.

This is an incredible privilege He has given His creation, when you think of it. God joins in the give and take of a relationship with us! That means that if you don't get close to God, well... you don't get close to God. In other words, He gives us the integrity of making the first move.

I think this is what was meant in that strange passage in Matthew 6:7&8, when Jesus warns us not to give what is sacred to dogs, and not to give pearls to pigs. God doesn't reveal Himself to those who aren't interested in a relationship with Him. And it's no indictment on them; they simply wouldn't get it. Dogs don't know what is sacred. Pigs have no use for pearls. Their only value is what they can eat, so the real value of pearls would be wasted on a pig.

The truth about God is wasted on someone who is not interested in knowing Him, so He doesn't draw near to that person. He draws near to those who come to Him. But believe me, once you show any indication of interest, He's right there.

Actually we all need God and we all know it. Even those who deny God and run the other way are desperately seeking Him from some empty place inside. We just don't all want to admit it.

But for those who do, God is all over any attempt on our part to get close to Him. It makes no difference how you do this. There is no right or wrong way to seek God. You just seek Him, and you keep on seeking Him. There's no end to this because there's no end to God. There's always more of Him to discover and experience. Worship is never static. It keeps opening up more and more of God to us as we worship Him and live our lives out according to His purposes.

John Fischer is the Senior Writer for Purpose Driven Life Daily Devotionals. He resides in Southern California with his wife, Marti and son, Chandler. They also have two adult children, Christopher and Anne. John is a published author and popular speaker.