LIFE NEWS

S.O.A.P

BY GORDON LANPHER, CHILDREN'S PASTOR

Reading and studying your Bible is important! If you are reading this, I doubt you would disagree. The question is, how should I study my Bible? There are many ways to study and many Bible plans you can use, but the question I usually ask is, "What would be a study format that you would use... and use often?" If pressed for a suggestion, try SOAP!

SOAP is simple enough for a child to do, but it also can be deep and helpful for an adult. The process is to use each of the letters in order to help you connect with God through the Bible.

S - Scripture: You want to start with a portion of Scripture. It could be a chapter or just a few verses. You want to list what you read under the letter "S." (Example: Psalm 19 or Philippians 2:5-11) Here's a helpful hint: Sometimes smaller portions of Scripture can be helpful to read more slowly. You don't always have to take on an entire chapter.

O - Observation: Under your "O," write what you observed about the passage. What stuck out to you? (Helpful hint: If you get stuck, ask the *who, what, when, where*, *why* questions that you were taught in school.

A - Application: Under "A," write how this section of Scripture can be applied to your life. Is there a promise there? Is there something for you to start doing or stop doing? Is there something in the text that gives you a reason to praise God?

P - Prayer: Take time to write under "P," a prayer related to what you read for today. Helpful Hint: Prayer should also be at the beginning of your Scripture time but PSOAP sounds weird.

Additional Hint: You can Google **SOAP Bible** and find different printable sheets, but you can also just simply accomplish this with a paper and pen.

Challenge: Even if you do other Bible Study methods, try this out with Psalm 23. You can even do this as a family or have your children do it.

I would love to see your **SOAP** of Psalm 23, so email: **gordon@parksidevisalia.org**