

SCRIPTURE



In our time, God speaks through Scripture, Spirit, and Seasoned Voices. 'Scripture' is the term that we use to describe the God-inspired words found in the Bible. In describing the value of the Bible, the Apostle Paul says it is useful for 'teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness'. As a result, reading Scripture is central to the life and growth of Christ-followers. Through it we are exposed to the story of God and humanity. Through it we discover the Good News of the cross and the resurrection. Through it we catch a glimpse of God's vision for this world and for our lives. So let's open the Bible and begin this identity-shaping practice.

READING WITH INTENT

The purpose of reading the Bible is to open our hearts and minds to God's voice in our lives. As a result, we read the Bible differently than how we approach other readings: it is meant to shape us. One way to read the Bible for full impact is what we call the S.O.A.P. Method:

1 SCRIPTURE

Slowly read through the passage of Scripture. Have a notebook on hand to record the things that jump out to you, both questions and observations. Underline or highlight particularly impactful passages.

2 OBSERVATION

Review the passages that you noted asking the question: What is God saying to me through this Scripture?

As part of observation consider:

- **REWRITING A PASSAGE IN YOUR OWN WORDS**
- **SKETCHING AN IMAGE**
- **MEMORIZING A PARTICULAR VERSE**

3 APPLICATION

Consider what the passage is calling you to do with these questions:

- **HOW SHOULD THIS PASSAGE SHAPE YOUR LIFE?**
- **WHAT IS THE SPIRIT CALLING ME TO DO AS A RESULT OF WHAT I HAVE READ?**
- **WHAT WILL I DO TODAY BECAUSE OF THIS?**

Be clear about how this applies to your life and share this with someone who knows you well.

4 PRAY

Talk over what you discovered with God. Thank Him for speaking to you through His Word. Journal this prayer at the bottom of your notebook.