

WAYS OF STUDYING THE BIBLE

This sheet contains several different styles of studying the Bible. These tools can be used individually, or with others. Some like Scripture Crunching (over the page) are more in depth, and time consuming than others like S.O.A.P.

These tools are not intended to overwhelm you, but instead to help provide a way of engaging more deeply with Scripture.

Please experiment, tweak and utilise these tools for your own use.

S.O.A.P

S.O.A.P is a simple Bible Study method that simply consists of 4 parts.

S – Scripture: Choose a passage that you wish to engage with

O – Observation: What do you notice about the passage? What stands out? What is it about?

A – Application: What is this passage asking you to do/ What would it look like to live this way? How does this Apply to your life?

P – Prayer: Take the opportunity to pray about what you have read

READING FOR ENGAGEMENT

The following questions are some general questions that encourage you to engage more deeply with a text. Read a passage and then take the time to journal or reflect on the following questions. Some of the questions may not be applicable to some passages, and that's ok!

1. What gets your attention in this passage? Why?
2. What does this passage teach me about God?
3. What does this passage teach me about Humanity?
4. What does this passage teach me about Myself?
5. What is One Thing I could take from this passage into my day today?

SCRIPTURE CRUNCHING

Scripture Crunching is a type of Bible Study, often used to help prepare for sermons, where you read through the passage multiple times making notes, and underlining as you go.

After you have read the text a couple of times, begin working your way through the questions, taking time to write down answers to the questions.

This is a powerful tool for deeply engaging with the text

INITIAL REFLECTIONS

1. What do you **hear**?
2. What **word or phrase** stood out? (Note repetition, inverse statements, call and response)
3. Who is **present**? What is each person's perspective?
4. What **questions** arise for you?
5. What do you **feel**?
6. What does the passage **make you think of**, or remind you of?
7. **Imagine...**
8. What's the **context** (what comes before and after)?
9. Are there any immediate **Biblical echoes**?

THINKING ABOUT CONTEXT

1. How has this been **translated differently**?
2. Does this story **appear anywhere else**? (Old or New Testament)
(we do not need to harmonise)
3. Are there any **text notes** of interest?
4. Who was the likely **original audience**?
5. Who was the likely **author**?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

1. How does this speak to what it means to the **limitations** of humanity?
2. How does this speak to the **possibilities** of humanity?
3. How does this speak to the **character of God**?

Example Passages to Crunch

Acts 8:26-40
(Philip and the Ethiopian)

Luke 10:1-24
(Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-Two)

Romans 8:1-17
(Life Through the Spirit)

Mark 3:1-6
(Healing on the Sabbath)