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## How to Read the Bible (S.O.A.P.S.)

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## **How to Read the Bible (S.O.A.P.S.)**

What does God have to say to you that no one else could say? Today's Main Thing is a little different from what you may have anticipated or perhaps even initially appreciate. *Why doesn't she just tell me what the text says*, you may wonder. Because I want you to hear the Word of God directly, without any hurdles, and without stopping short to hear what one person may glean from it. I want you to dive in deeply:

1. Scripture - Read the passage a minimum of three times out loud.
2. Observe - Underline, highlight, take notes on anything and everything that stands out to you. I like to say that my worship can be found in the margins of my Bible where I jot down what the Spirit seems to be revealing to me.
3. Apply - What is God saying to you? What does He want to apply to your life?
4. Pray - Ask for God's help to embrace what He's spoken to you.
5. Share - Summarize your experience in the Word today and share with someone down the hall from you, with your spouse or children, or the divine appointment God has in store for you today that you don't currently have on your radar. Carry His Word in your heart as you move throughout the day.

May you be richly blessed today as you pause from your list of responsibilities in order to make the Main Thing, the main thing in your life, your workplace, and your heart.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!  
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,  
who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.  
The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.  
He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.  
The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.  
He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.  
For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those  
who fear him; as far as the east is from the west,  
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.  
As a father shows compassion to his children,  
so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.  
For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.  
As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field;  
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.  
But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,  
and his righteousness to children's children,  
to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.  
The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.  
Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word,

obeying the voice of his word! Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will!  
Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul!”  
Psalms 103:1-22 ESV

-Pastor Anna Bennett