

Ruth

a story of redemption

Study Scripture with SOAP

The SOAP method is a unique and organized way to study the Bible. It encourages us to dig deeper into Scripture. SOAP is an acronym, which stands for **S**cripture, **O**bservation, **A**pplication, and **P**rayer.

Step 1: PRAY

Before you read, ask the Holy Spirit to show you what He wants you to know, and to help you understand what you read and how it relates to your life. Pray to read with fresh eyes, an open heart, and mind.

Step 2: READ

Each week, you will read a chapter from Ruth. Read the chapter daily. If you find a chapter is too long, you can certainly break it up into two smaller sections. (This method is very flexible!) Read it slowly, quietly, and aloud. Repeat, as many times as needed. As you read, pay attention to any words or phrases that you sense God is speaking to you about. Listen for words of encouragement, direction, or even correction/conviction.

Step 3: WRITE

Use the SOAP prompts to guide your writing. Record in a journal or on the provided worksheet:

- At the top of the page, record the date.

Scripture

- What verse(s) did the Holy Spirit show you? Write it out.

Observations

- What do you see happening in the passage? Who is the audience? Is there repetition of words? What words stand out to you?
- What is the main lesson or theme?
- Do you learn anything about God? Does the passage point to Jesus?

Ruth

a story of redemption

Application

- How does this verse apply to you and your life today?
- How is God calling you to respond because of what you have just read?

Prayer

- Thank God for what He has revealed to you.
 - Confess any sin that the Holy Spirit revealed.
 - Ask God for the grace and power to live out what you learned.
- When finished, go to the top of your journal entry/worksheet and give it a title, be descriptive!

Step 4: PRAY

End your time by praying back what you have written. Ask God to help you put into practice what the Holy Spirit spoke to your heart, and for opportunities to live it out! As you go through your day, meditate on the verse you recorded.



Ruth

a story of redemption

USING SOAP WITH YOUR SMALL GROUP:

1. Begin by checking in with everyone since you last met. Invite group members to share any victories, where they were able to live out what they have been learning. They can also share any struggles. This helps hold group members accountable, and will also encourage and inspire, as well as deepen relationships.
2. Before reading, ask a group member to pray.
3. Have another group member (or several people) read the Scripture passage.
4. Invite everyone in the group to share a journal entry (SOAP) – share, learn & grow together!
5. Break into smaller groups to end your time together in accountability and prayer. You can choose one or two questions listed below for each person to answer.

ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS:

1. What steps of obedience did you take last week? In what ways did you fall short?
 2. What are you struggling with (temptations, sin), and how can we pray for you?
 3. How has the Holy Spirit been testing and growing you this week?
 4. Have you been angry, fearful, or anxious this week? Why?
 5. Do you need to reconcile with anyone? Are you holding a grudge or envious of another?
- 