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May 10, 2020



Daily Devotions

SOAP Introduction

As an individual or as a family, use this SOAP study to connect with Jesus each day this week. SOAP stands for Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer. When we do a SOAP study, we want to root ourselves in the Scriptures, observing what they have for us, applying them to our lives, and then communing with God in prayer both before and after our time in the Bible.

Each day there will be multiple Scriptures for you to ask questions about, sit with, hear from God, and be invited to respond in action to.

If you're doing this individually, be sure to prayerfully consider each day's truth, each day's passages, and each of the questions. If you are doing this as a family, don't be afraid to have each person in your family read one of the verses or to "popcorn read" if it's a longer passage (meaning, don't be afraid to have one person read a verse or two and then another read a couple verses and then another a couple verses).

Parents, if you are going through this with your children, be sure to ask questions that will help your children engage with the daily Scriptures by asking good, concrete questions.

Day One // Our missional God

Ever since things went awry in our world (when sin came into the picture!), God has been on a mission to redeem and restore the world. God wants to right all the wrongs. God wants to fix what is broken. God wants to make what is sad transform into joy.

To do so, he began a rescue mission in the very first couple of pages of our Bible. Starting in Genesis 12, God calls Abraham, through whom the people of Israel would come, through whom Jesus would come.

Our God is missional. It's there right from the beginning.

Scripture: **Read John 3:16-21; Luke 4:16-21**

Observation: *What do I see in these passages?*

- What words or phrases resonate inside of you as you read and re-read these verses?
- When thinking about God's nature, would "missional" be a word you'd use to describe him? Why or why not? What other words would you use to describe him?
- When thinking about your own nature, what words would you use to describe yourself? Is missional a word you'd use? Why or why not? Do you think your nature should reflect God's on this topic?
- How have you seen God be missional in your own life?

Application: *What do I do with what I've read?*

- What tangible action steps do you feel like God is inviting you into as a result of your reflection today?

Prayer: Write a prayer thanking God for not leaving us to our own devices. Thank him for sending Jesus to fix our brokenness even when we did not deserve it.

Day Two // Our (still) missional God

At the cross, God, in Christ Jesus, defeated Satan, sin, and death. Jesus' resurrection was the first sign that God was undoing all the bad, the sad, and the ugly in life.

It didn't just stop there though.

As Christians, we get to participate in God's mission of bringing redemption and restoration to this hurting and broken world. That's what it means to be a "Christian" – to literally "follow Christ" in everything. To follow him in loving God, loving others, and being on mission. God is still on the move in our world today. He is active. He is at work. Many times...through US.

Scripture: **John 17:18; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20**

Observation: *What do I see in these passages?*

- Read and re-read these passages slowly. Which passage stands out to you the most? Why?
- How does it feel to know that God wants to send you on his behalf to bring his love to our world?
- Describe a time in your life where you feel like you partnered with God in his mission. What did you learn from that experience?

Application: *What do I do with what I've read?*

- Where might God be wanting to send you today?
- In what way do the passages above change your perspective on your role of being missional?

Prayer: Spend time talking with God about what feelings you have when you think about joining him in mission. Be honest. Don't hold back. If there's fear, let him know. If there's doubt, let him know. If there's insecurity, let him know. Allow him to speak his love for you directly into your heart.

Day Three // Our missional call

Because our God is missional, we are to be missional. This isn't a call for the pastors or the spiritual "professionals." Jesus invites us into loving God, loving others, and making a difference for the Kingdom of God. In fact, "invite" might be too weak of a word. Instead, we are *commissioned* by God to steward our lives to help bring others into an abiding relationship with the Lord and to care for the poor, downtrodden, and oppressed.

This is what Jesus called his disciples to do. Maybe today we need to hear that call afresh.

Scripture: **Read Luke 5:1-11**

Observation: *What do I see in this passage?*

- What words or phrases resonate inside of you as you read and re-read these passages?
- If you were the disciples, what would you feel upon hearing Jesus' invitation to fish for men?
- What does it look like for you to be a fisher of men regarding your family? Your neighbors? Your coworkers?
- Who was the person that introduced you to the Lord? What was that journey like for you?

Application: *What do I do with what I've read?*

- Where do you feel as if you are being called to be on mission for the Lord? Specifically, where do you feel like God wants you to fish for people?
- How do you feel like God is inviting you into action as a result of your reflection today?

Prayer: *Father, I want to join you in your mission. I want to fish for people right alongside you. I'm just not always sure which side of the boat to throw my net over. I'm not even sure if I know how to use the boat! God, will you teach me how to row? How to cast my net? How to pull in the fish?*

Day Four // Our missional burden

There are many different reasons as to why people might not be gung-ho about being missional. Maybe it's a time issue, maybe they are afraid of what people might say, maybe they aren't sure how to go about being missional, or maybe they are just apathetic about God's call to mission.

As Christians, what would it look like to follow the examples of Nehemiah in the Old Testament and Paul in the New Testament and develop within ourselves a missional burden for the hurting, lost, and broken?

Scripture: **Read Nehemiah 1:4-11; Colossians 1:24-2:3**

Observation: *What do I see in these passages?*

- Read and re-read these passages slowly. What words or phrases resonates with you from these verses?
- What word or words would you use to describe your own "missional burden?" Why did you choose those words?
- Do your words reflect what you see as Jesus, Nehemiah, or Paul's missional burden? Where are there discrepancies? Why do you think these exist for you?
- What keeps you from being missional or having a missional burden?

Application: *What do I do with what I've read?*

- What do you need to pray or do in order to cultivate a missional burden in your heart?
- How do you feel like God is inviting you into greater trust as a result of your reflection today?

Prayer: Write a prayer expressing your desire to have a missional burden cultivated in your heart. Ask God for his help.

Day Five // How Jesus was missional

Being on mission with God could happen in any situation, with anyone, at any time. Being sent by God deals a lot with discerning where God is active and working in our midst, but we also see from the life of Jesus how to maybe engage with people who are far from God.

Scripture: **John 4:1-26**

Observation: *What do I see in this passage?*

- Imagine yourself being spoken to by Jesus in this story. What surprises you about Jesus' interaction with you?
- What tangible ways did Jesus interact with the woman in this story that showed he cared for and loved her?
- How have you experienced Jesus loving you and caring for you through other people? How can you reciprocate the way Jesus loved this woman in John 4? Are there people in your life that God may be inviting you to care for?
- What things keep you from being missional? Explain your feelings on this question.

Application: *What do I do with what I've read?*

- Where do you feel like the Spirit is prompting you to join God in his mission?
- In what one tangible way is God inviting you to be missional this week?

Prayer: Ask God to show you tangible ways for you to be missional in your everyday life.