

Time Alone With God is essential to seeing spiritual growth. This devotional is a tool to help you develop that discipline in you to get that time alone with God. Often times we don't know where to begin, how to study, how to read or how to reflect on what we read. Use this simple study method called S.O.A.P. This will help you study scripture but also unpack it more to let it impact your life.

We love you, we believe in you, and are praying for you!

- The Student Ministries Staff

S for Scripture

What is God saying?

Open your Bible and take time reading and allow God to speak to you. When you are done, look for a verse that particularly spoke to you that day, and write it in your journal.

O for Observation

What is He saying to me?

What do you think God is saying to you in this scripture? Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal Jesus to you. Paraphrase and write this scripture down in your own words, in your journal.

A for Application

What do I need to do?

Personalize what you have read, by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, revelation of a new promise, or corrections for a particular area of your life. Write how this scripture can apply to you today.

P for Prayer

How shall I commit it to God?

This can be as simple as asking God to help you use this scripture, or it may be a greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two-way conversation, so be sure to listen to what God has to say! Now, write it out.

Day 1:

Mark 1:1-13

Jesus is baptized

Scripture: What is a summary of what this passage is about?

Observation:

- What is the difference between the way John baptizes and Jesus baptizes?

- What does it mean to be baptized by the Holy Spirit and not just water?

Application:

- What do verses 12-13 mean to you? How do these verses bring comfort?

Prayer: Write out how you need God to comfort and care for you.

Day 3:

Mark 1:21-45

Jesus heals many people

Scripture: What is a summary of what this passage is about?

Observation:

- What kind of power does Jesus display – over the sick and over the demons?

- Why did the leper tell others about what had happened to him?

Application:

- How does your life relate to the leper? If it doesn't, what can you learn from his life that you can apply to yours?

Prayer: Pray for boldness to share about what Jesus has done in your life. Who are those people that need to hear about Jesus? Pray for them and opportunity to share with them.

Day 4:

Mark 2:1-17

Jesus heals and calls Levi

Scripture: What is a summary of what this passage is about?

Observation:

- Read verses 8-10. What does this say about Jesus' mission?

- What does this say about the hope we have in Jesus?

Application:

- Levi didn't question Jesus when he said "follow me", he just obeys him. Are you like Levi? Why or why not?

Prayer: Pray for a heart like Levi that is ready and willing to leave it all behind to follow Jesus.

Day 7:

Mark 4:1-34

Jesus teaches with stories.

Scripture: What is a summary of what this passage is about?

Observation:

- Why does Jesus teach in parables? (verses 10-12)

- What was the farmer's job in the story in verses 1-9?

- Why does the farmer throw seed on every type of soil even when it wasn't the best soil?

Application:

- What does it look like for us to act like the farmer in the story with the message of Jesus today?

Prayer: Pray that you would be a person who shares the love of Jesus no matter how it may be received.

Day 8:

Mark 4:35-41

Jesus calms a storm

Scripture: What is a summary of what this passage is about?

Observation:

- The disciples have seen Jesus teach, heal people, and cast out demons. Why were they afraid of the storm?

- What does the response of Jesus teach you about Him?

Application:

- What storms of life cause you to be afraid?

Prayer: Pray for peace and trust in the midst of whatever storm you may have in your life.

Day 9:

Mark 5:1-43

Jesus is greater than Satan and death.

Scripture: What is a summary of what this passage is about?

Observation:

- How does darkness have control over this man's life?

- How does Jesus demonstrate his power over the darkness?

Application:

- Where do you see darkness in your life or others around you?

- What would change about how you deal with your darkness if you trusted Jesus' power over darkness?

Prayer: Pray for your eyes to be opened to see the power of Jesus in your life.

Day 11:

Mark 6:30-56

Jesus feeds 5000, walks on water and heals the sick

Scripture: What is a summary of what this passage is about?

Observation:

- Compassion is having concern for others. How does Jesus demonstrate compassion in this story?

- In this story, the crowd of people had many needs. What do you think their needs were?

- Jesus was tired, he was ready to get away and yet he stops for this crowd. What motivation did he have in stopping?

- How does this moment reflect the heart of God?

Application:

- What needs can you identify around your school, neighborhood, or city?

Prayer:

Day 13:

Mark 7:24-37

Jesus helps people others would not.

Scripture: What is a summary of what this passage is about?

Observation:

- Why would people think Jesus wouldn't help the woman?
Remember, Jesus was a Jew – did Jews care for Gentiles?

Application:

- Who are the people in your life that you struggle to really love and care for?

- What would happen if you were to show them love?

Prayer:

Day 14:

Mark 8:1-26

Jesus feeds 4000 and heals a blind man

Scripture: What is a summary of what this passage is about?

Observation:

- How did Jesus feel toward the crowd of people that followed him? How do you think his disciples might have felt?

- How did Jesus involve the disciples with the food problem?

Application:

- How are you like (or not like) the disciples with the food problem?

- As you read about the blind man – how has Jesus touched your life? Have you ever needed that “second touch” to fully receive it?

Prayer:

Day 15:

Mark 8:27-38

Peter says Jesus is God

Scripture: What is a summary of what this passage is about?

Observation:

- In what way did Peter have in mind “the things of men”? What was wrong with his thinking?

- What did Jesus want his disciples to do?

Application:

- What does it mean to deny yourself? To take up your cross? To follow Christ?

- How can you make sure you have in the mind the things of God?

Prayer:

Day 16:

Mark 9:1-13

Jesus is greater than Moses and Elijah

Scripture: What is a summary of what this passage is about?

Observation:

- What did God say to the disciples with Jesus? What did He want them to do?

- What did Jesus tell his disciples to do when they were coming down the mountain? (9:9) What did they do? (9:10)

Application:

- How do we listen to Jesus?

Prayer:

Day 17:

Mark 9:14-29

Jesus heals a boy who is possessed

Scripture: What is a summary of what this passage is about?

Observation:

- Why were the disciples unable to cast out the demon? How did Jesus feel at this point?

Application:

- Where do you struggle with doubt? How has God helped you overcome your doubt?

- When do you learn more: during spiritual highs or lows? Write out your example.

Prayer:

Day 18:

Mark 9:30-50

Jesus predicts his death and teaches his disciples

Scripture: What is a summary of what this passage is about?

Observation:

- How did Jesus explain what it means to be great?

- What does it really mean to be a servant of all?

- What does the 'salt' in verses 49-50 represent?

Application:

- What are temptations that you struggle with?

Prayer: Spend time praying over the temptations you face.

Day 20:

Mark 10:17-34

A man asks Jesus how to get eternal life

Scripture: What is a summary of what this passage is about?

Observation:

- What was the attitude of the wealthy man when he approached Jesus? What did he want Jesus to explain to him?

- Why did Jesus say “no one is good except God alone”?

- What attitude did Jesus have toward the rich man? What instruction did he give him? Was this command to the rich man meant for all Christians?

Application:

- What is your attitude towards God when he tells you to give something up for him?

Prayer: Pray that you would have a heart ready to drop anything God would have you drop in order to follow Him.

Day 21:

Mark 10:35-52

Jesus came to serve

Scripture: What is a summary of what this passage is about?

Observation:

- What did Jesus warn his disciples about? What value did he place on serving? On status? On greatness? (10:42-45)

- How did the blind man address Jesus and what did he ask for?

- How did the crowd treat the blind man when he was calling out to Jesus? How did they treat him after Jesus spoke to Him?

Application:

- How can you become a servant of (or to) others. Give two specific examples.

Prayer: Pray for opportunities to serve – seek them out. Where will you serve? How can you serve?

Day 22:

Mark 11:1-11

Jesus enters Jerusalem

Scripture: What is a summary of what this passage is about?

Observation:

- Why do you think Jesus wanted an animal no one had ever ridden?

- What do you think the disciples were thinking when their experience getting the colt matched what Jesus said would happen?

- What do you think the crowd was feeling as Jesus entered?

Application:

- How do you feel and respond when Jesus enters into your life?

Prayer: Pray that you would remember all who Jesus is and praise Him.

Day 23:

Mark 11:12-33

Jesus cleans out the temple

Scripture: What is a summary of what this passage is about?

Observation:

- Why did the fig tree have no fruit? What did Jesus say to it? What happened to the tree?

- Jesus used the fig tree to illustrate two important truths about prayer. What are they? (11:22-25)

Application:

- As Jesus was confronted for cleaning the temple – he showed that He had authority. How can we make sure we follow God's authority over man's?

- When is it most difficult to submit to God's authority?

Prayer: Pray that you would recognize God's authority and be obedient.

Day 24:

Mark 12:1-27

Jesus against the religious leaders

Scripture: What is a summary of what this passage is about?

Observation:

- What is the vineyard?
- Who does the vineyard owner represent?
- Who do the servants represent?
- Who do the tenants represent?
- Who does the son of the owner represent?
- What does this parable tell us about what happens to those who reject Jesus as the son of God? (12:9)

- What values was Jesus communicating with his answer to the Pharisee's question? (12:17)

Application:

- What should we be giving back to God? Is there some area or thing of your life that you have held back from the Lord?

Prayer: Pray that you would have open hands to give back to the Lord with what He has given to you.

Day 25:

Mark 12:28-44

The Greatest Commandment

Scripture: What is a summary of what this passage is about?

Observation:

- Jesus answers the teacher's question with two answers. Do you think the order of the answer matters? Explain.
- How does loving God help us love others?
- Why doesn't Jesus say "love your neighbor" instead of "love your neighbor as yourself?"
- Is it possible to love God and not love others?

Application:

- Why is it hard to love some people?

Prayer: Pray that God would give you a heart to love others as you love Him.

Day 26:

Mark 13:1-37

Jesus talks about when He will come back

Scripture: What is a summary of what this passage is about?

Observation:

- What 2 questions do the disciples ask? What might trick them into thinking the end times are here? (13:4-8)

- What will happen to the disciples and the early church?

- Why do you think the Father has kept the time secret? What is the responsibility of believers in the meantime?

Application:

- What are you doing now that matters in eternity?

Prayer: Pray that you would live a life that was ready for Jesus' return.

Day 27:

Mark 14:1-42

The night before Jesus dies

Scripture: What is a summary of what this passage is about?

Observation:

- Why did Jesus defend this woman's actions?

- What did Judas gain by betraying Jesus? Was it worth it?

- Is Peter sleeping about physical sleep or spiritual sleep? Why do you think Jesus says to watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation?

Application:

- How can you stay awake, alert and active against temptation?

Prayer: Pray that you would cling to Jesus and never turn your back.

Day 28:

Mark 14:43-72

Jesus is arrested

Scripture: What is a summary of what this passage is about?

Observation:

- What does the story about Peter tell you about Peter?

- What does it tell you about human nature?

Application:

- Why are Christians sometimes afraid to identify as believers in Christ?

- What situations make you uncomfortable about identifying as a Christian?

Prayer: Pray that you would see Jesus high and lifted up seated on his throne in Heaven and that you would always see His greatness on display.

Day 29:

Mark 15:1-47

Jesus dies

Scripture: What is a summary of what this passage is about?

Observation:

- What is the significance of the veil of the temple being torn in half?

- What do Jesus' actions teach us about submitting to God's will?

Application:

- What feelings do you have as you read over the death of Jesus and how he was tortured?

- Could you submit to God, like Jesus did, even if it meant death? Explain your thoughts.

Prayer: Pray that you would recognize the power of the cross daily in your life.

Day 30:

Mark 16:1-20

Jesus is ALIVE!

Scripture: What is a summary of what this passage is about?

Observation:

- How does the resurrection of Jesus confirm everything He said and did?

- What did the disciples do after Jesus had left earth to be in heaven?

Application:

- If you truly believe this event happened, what should be different about your life?

- What needs to change in your life to show the power that Jesus had over death?

Prayer: Spend time in thanks for the sacrifice Jesus made for you to have a personal relationship with you.

