

ARE WE THERE YET?!

a roadtrip through
the book of James

**S.O.A.P. Road Map
SUMMER 2015**



Statement on Scripture

Dear Lake Forest Church:

We believe the Bible is God's completely true Story about who He is, what He has done, what He is doing, and what He will do. It was given by God to human writers and so reflects their backgrounds, styles, and use of language. The Bible is the final authority on all matters to which it speaks.

While our Sunday morning worship together is a great place to learn the Bible and hear from God, we encourage you to also find ways and time explore God's Word on your own. (You can do it!) As we read the Bible, apply it to our lives and repeat these steps in a regular rhythm, we begin to see how God responds - transforming our spirits and minds and helping us become more like Jesus.

We're excited to be on this journey with you this Summer!

Your Fans,

The Pastors of Lake Forest Church



What is S.O.A.P.?

S.O.A.P. stands for **Scripture, Observation, Application** and **Prayer**.

It is a way of getting more out of your time in God's word. We did not invent it; we just decided to share it with you and provide a notebook so you can try it out.

How to use S.O.A.P.:

You'll need three items (Bible/Bible App, Pen & S.O.A.P. Notes) to S.O.A.P. each day!

Some notes about Bibles:

- We typically use the NIV translation of the Bible, but want you to use whatever translation helps you the most. It sometimes helps to look at a couple translations.
- If you do not own a Bible, or a Bible in a translation that makes sense to you, please take one from us! They are located in the chairs and in the Info Centers at all three LFC locations.
- See resources on page 11 for mobile Bible reading options.

Scripture

Open your Bible/Bible App to your reading for the day - noted on the top of each page. Take your 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 down.

Observation

What are one or two things this passage is intended to teach us? Ask the Holy Spirit to teach and reveal to you more about Jesus and more about yourself. Write down what strikes you most--a word, a phrase, an idea, a situation.

Application

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

Prayer

This can be as simple as asking God to help you use this scripture, or even a prayer for a greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Write your prayer out.

Check out the S.O.A.P. example on the next page...

Set the Course

We've laid out a weekly rhythm for your summer study (below) that allows you to spend a little bit of time in God's word each day. However, if you fall behind, it's no big deal. You can pick up where you left off or jump to wherever the schedule suggests you should be.

This isn't homework – it's a chance to learn more about God and yourself this summer so enjoy your study.

Weekly Scriptures

- Week 1:** James 1:1-18 **Week 2:** James 1:19-27
- Week 3:** James 2:1-13 **Week 4:** James 2:14-26
- Week 5:** James 3:1-18 **Week 6:** James 4:1-12
- Week 7:** James 4:13-5:6 **Week 8:** James 5:7-20

- Sunday:** We'll study the book of James together in worship.
- Monday:** Scripture: Read the passage for the week two times.
Write one verse that stood out to you.
- Tuesday:** Scripture: Read passage again.
Observation: Write something that stood out.
- Wednesday:** Scripture: Read passage again.
Observation: Write something new that stood out
Application: Write how the Scripture applies to you.
- Thursday:** Scripture: Read passage again.
Observation: Read the things you've observed so far
Application: Write a new way it applies to you.
Prayer: Write your prayer out.
- Friday:** Read the passage and sit for 10 minutes reflecting on the passage. This is called Listening to God.
- Saturday:** Write 1 or 2 things you will do as God changes you.

EXAMPLE: MARK 7:1-16

Sunday: Sunday Worship

Monday: S: vs. 15: Nothing outside of a person can enter and contaminate a person in God's sight; rather it is the things that come out of a person that contaminates the person.

Tuesday: O: Jesus told it like it is. He spoke the truth. He was bold in telling the Pharisees that they needed to get back to basics.

Wednesday: O: Jesus urged the Pharisees to stop judging others by their outward appearances as God is more concerned about what is inside a person.

A: Too often I am all about how things look rather than how things REALLY are in my life. Be less interested today in how I'm seen externally and be sure I'm true to who God has made me internally. Where am I more concerned with appearances than truth?

Thursday: A: From vs. 16: In what ways does my heart honor God? In what ways is it not honoring him? Do my actions externally line up with my heart?

P: Lord, give me the courage to look deep inside and dig up the things that contaminate my life. Show me what they are. Give me wisdom to know what is real and true and not be distracted in trying to keep up a false appearance in my life. Amen.

Friday: Listen to God



Saturday:

One thing I'll do because God is changing me:

Over the next 2 weeks I will write down ways I notice myself paying more attention to what people think of me instead of what God thinks of me. This will help me to pay more attention.

Another thing I'll do because God is changing me:

I will be honest with someone this week about who I really am instead of pretending for them again.

Week One: June 14-20: James 1:1-18

Sunday: Sunday Worship

Monday: S: _____

Tuesday: O: _____

Wednesday: O: _____

A: _____

Thursday: A: _____

P: _____

Friday: Listen to God

Saturday:

One thing I'll do because God is changing me:

Another thing I'll do because God is changing me:



Week Two: June 21-27: James 1:19-27

Sunday: Sunday Worship

Monday: S: _____

Tuesday: O: _____

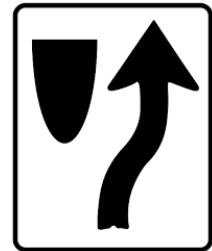
Wednesday: O: _____

A: _____

Thursday: A: _____

P: _____

Friday: Listen to God



Saturday:

One thing I'll do because God is changing me:

Another thing I'll do because God is changing me:

Week Three: June 28-July 4: James 2:1-13

Sunday: Sunday Worship

Monday: S: _____

Tuesday: O: _____

Wednesday: O: _____

A: _____

Thursday: A: _____

P: _____

Friday: Listen to God



Saturday:

One thing I'll do because God is changing me:

Another thing I'll do because God is changing me:

Week Four: July 5-11: James 2:14-26

Sunday: Sunday Worship

Monday: S: _____

Tuesday: O: _____

Wednesday: O: _____

A: _____

Thursday: A: _____

P: _____

Friday: Listen to God

Saturday:

One thing I'll do because God is changing me:

Another thing I'll do because God is changing me:



Week Five: July 12-18: James 3:1-18

Sunday: Sunday Worship

Monday: S: _____

Tuesday: O: _____

Wednesday: O: _____

A: _____

Thursday: A: _____

P: _____

Friday: Listen to God

Saturday:

One thing I'll do because God is changing me:

Another thing I'll do because God is changing me:



Week Six: July 19-25: James 4:1-12

Sunday: Sunday Worship

Monday: S: _____

Tuesday: O: _____

Wednesday: O: _____

A: _____

Thursday: A: _____

P: _____

Friday: Listen to God

Saturday:

One thing I'll do because God is changing me:

Another thing I'll do because God is changing me:



Week Seven: July 26-Aug 1: James 4:13-5:6

Sunday: Sunday Worship

Monday: S: _____

Tuesday: O: _____

Wednesday: O: _____

A: _____

Thursday: A: _____

P: _____

Friday: Listen to God

Saturday:

One thing I'll do because God is changing me:

Another thing I'll do because God is changing me:



Week Eight: August 2-8: James 5:7-20

Sunday: Sunday Worship

Monday: S: _____

Tuesday: O: _____

Wednesday: O: _____

A: _____

Thursday: A: _____

P: _____

Friday: Listen to God

Saturday:

One thing I'll do because God is changing me:

Another thing I'll do because God is changing me:



Apps for your smartphone:

Bible by LifeChurch.tv (free)

- an online Bible with many different translations.

There are also several reading plans that can help you choose scriptures to S.O.A.P.

Bible Gateway by HarperCollins (free)

- another online Bible with a lot of translations and reading plans.

There are also several commentaries, dictionaries, and encyclopedias to access.

S.O.A.P.- Your Bible Study Journal

by Brandon Trebitowski (\$1.99)

- for people who enjoy online journaling.

You have your own scripture reference. This is basically just an online notebook with the King James Bible for you to access.

Websites:

Bible Gateway

- also has an online version with the same information as the app.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/>

Bible Study Tools

- another online study, reading, and commentary site.

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/>



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