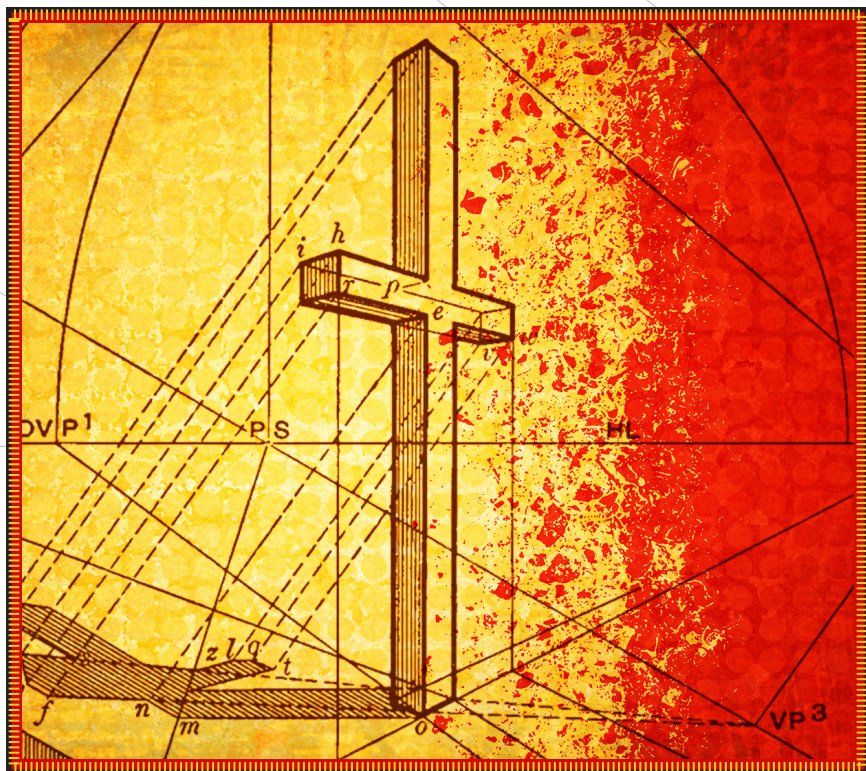


THE GRAND PERSPECTIVE



The Grand Perspective

We are excited to provide this resource to our Life Groups. We want to start with a couple reasons why we're offering this type of study. First, we value community; a place where you can be known, be encouraged, and be challenged. We believe everyone needs someone and some place to have biblical conversation and spiritual community. This will never happen accidentally. It takes intentionality. Therefore, be purposeful in your time together with others.

The second reason is to help people engage Scripture in a more meaningful way. Unfortunately, very few people read their Bibles on a daily basis and those who do may feel like, "Now what?" A series-based curriculum will not only provide sermon-based questions so that you all can interact with what was taught during the weekend, but it will also challenge us to do our own personal Bible study using the SOAP method.

This acronym is really nothing more than a simple way of teaching individuals to do their own inductive Bible study. In other words, it's an easy system that slows people down so that they can engage God's Word through a very simple process. The SOAP process is explained on the next page. We encourage your group to spend some time allowing people to share what they learned from God's Word in their own personal time. Enjoy your time with your group and enjoy your time with Jesus.

Pastor Jay W. Haugh

Why SOAP?

It's one thing to simply read Scripture, but when you interact with it, when you learn to slow down to REALLY read it, suddenly words start popping off the page. By "SOAPing" your verses, you are able to dig deeper into Scripture and "see" more than if you simply read the verses and then went on your merry way. Let us encourage you to take the time to SOAP the daily verses and see for yourself how much more you get out of your daily reading.

What does SOAP mean?

- S** The S stands for **Scripture**. You physically write out the Scripture. This allows you to slow down as you pause to see what God has revealed to us in His Word. This will also greatly help you memorize the verse should you choose to do so.
- O** The O stands for **Observation**. What do you see in the verses that you're reading? Who is the audience? Is there a repetition of words? What words stand out to you? One of the helpful things you can observe during your SOAP is whether God is communicating: (1) A Truth to Believe (2) A Promise to Claim (3) Command to Obey or (4) An Example to Follow.
- A** The A stands for **Application**. This is when God's Word becomes personal. What is God saying to me today? How can I apply what I just read to my own personal life? What is God calling me to repent of (i.e. a change of mindset, Mark 1:15)? What is God calling me to believe or trust Him to do?
- P** And finally P stands for **Prayer**. Pray God's Word back to Him. If He has revealed something to you during this time in His Word, pray about it. Confess if He has revealed some sin that is in your life. Praise and thank God for what He has done and will do in your life.

SOAP Example: Colossians 1:5-8

S The faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

O Many times I just bullet my Observations... what I'm seeing at first glance when looking at the verses.

- I see "A Truth to Believe" in this passage. In a world that seems to be falling apart the gospel continues to "bear fruit and grow."
- When you combine faith and love, you get hope.
- We have to remember that our hope is in heaven; it is yet to come.
- The gospel is the word of truth.
- It takes one person to change a whole community...Epaphras.

A Something that stood out to me today was how God used one man, Epaphras, to change a whole town! I was reminded that we are simply called to tell others about Christ. It's God's job to spread the gospel, to grow it and have it bear fruit. I felt today's verses were almost directly spoken to me...all over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. Isn't it fun when God's Word becomes so alive and speaks directly where we are at?!!

P Dear Lord, please help me to be an "Epaphras." First, I want to continue to experience the life-transforming hope You can bring. Second, help me to tell others about You and then leave the results in Your loving hands. Help me to live a life that bears the "fruit" of faith and love...anchoring my hope in heaven, not here on earth. Help me to remember that the BEST is yet to come!

Message 1: April 28, 2019

REFLECT & PROCESS WITH OTHERS

SOAP Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:20

SCRIPTURE

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATIONS

PRAYER

Message 1: Ambassador

1. What's your biggest struggle right now? As a parent? A spouse? In the work place? As a student?

2. Do you struggle with the "why" or big picture of parenting, marriage, or other personal relationships? How honest are you with these struggles with others?

3. Do you see yourself as an "owner" or an "ambassador?" Pair up and explain the difference.

4. Process this statement: Life is not first about what we want FOR ourselves or FROM our children, spouse, or friends, but about what God in grace has planned to do through us in these relationships.

5. Jesus has a lot to say about our values or treasures. Do physical things get in the way of, or create needless tension in your relationships? (parenting, friendships)

6. The Bible also speaks to our drive for success. How has the value of career/educational success impacted your commitment to the work that God has called you to as parents, spouse, student, or friend?

PRINCIPLE TO PROCESS

No one gives grace better than the one who humbly admits that they desperately need it themselves. Pray that God will do this in you and through you.

Message 2: May 5, 2019

REFLECT & PROCESS WITH OTHERS
SOAP Verses: Titus 2:11-12

SCRIPTURE

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATIONS

PRAYER

Message 2: Grace

1. What part of grace is easiest for you to understand? Past? Future? Or present? Pair up and explain the differences.

2. Why is the principle on grace the most important part of the series? (Answer: Because God doesn't call able or capable people.)

3. How does God give you what you need for this calling? (Answer: He gives you what you need by giving Himself and He showers with transforming grace.)

PRINCIPLE TO PROCESS

No one gives grace better than the one who humbly admits that they desperately need it themselves. Pray that God will do this in you and through you.

Message 3: May 12, 2019

REFLECT & PROCESS WITH OTHERS
SOAP Verses: 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

SCRIPTURE

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATIONS

PRAYER

Message 3: Process

1. Why is change a process and not an event?

2. What’s the theological reason that explains that change is a process, not an event? (See Romans 6).

3. What are your thoughts on “Sin blinds and it blinds us first?” We see other people’s sin but not our own. Where have you seen this? Why is this the case?

4. What are key things to remember when it comes to the process of change?

PRINCIPLE TO PROCESS

You must be committed to a long-view in your relationships because change is a process and not an event.

Message 4: May 19, 2019

REFLECT & PROCESS WITH OTHERS

SOAP Verse: 2 Corinthians 3:9

SCRIPTURE

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATIONS

PRAYER

Message 4: Law

1. What “tool” do you default to when it comes to bringing change in your relationships? Grace or Law?

2. Can Law change a heart? If Law could change a heart then Jesus never needed to come.

3. What then is the purpose of God’s Law?

4. How does grace correspond to law?

5. Over the last six weeks, are you more offended, angered, irritated, etc. at the breaking of God’s Law or your personal Law?

6. How can we take these theological truths and practically apply them to our relationships?

PRINCIPLE TO PROCESS

We need God’s Law, but we cannot ask the Law to do what only grace can accomplish.

Message 5: May 26, 2019

REFLECT & PROCESS WITH OTHERS

SOAP Verse: Hebrews 4:16

SCRIPTURE

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATIONS

PRAYER

Message 5: Mercy

1. Which is easier in a relationship with children, spouse, etc. – to represent God’s judgment, or extend God’s mercy? How do we balance good discipline with giving mercy? How did this manifest itself this week?

2. Mercy is given to those who are in need of it. In what ways do our children (or those around us) need mercy? Why do they need it? How can we deliver it?

3. According to Hebrews 4:1, What limits does God place on giving mercy? When are we promised to receive mercy?

4. How does the gospel influence our relationships? Give practical answers as a parent, spouse, or friend.

5. How can we give mercy to those around us who have yet to trust Jesus?

PRINCIPLE TO PROCESS

No one gives mercy better than one who is convinced that they desperately need it themselves.

Message 6: June 2, 2019

REFLECT & PROCESS WITH OTHERS

SOAP Verse: John 15:5

SCRIPTURE

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATIONS

PRAYER

Message 6: Inability

1. How have you witnessed that you are powerless to change your child, spouse, parent, friend, or yourself?

2. What “power tool” do you tend to default to in your relationships?

3. Why do we settle for these “tools” when we know they don’t work long-term and God is the only One who can produce change?

4. How can you begin to take steps with a powerful and loving Redeemer in view?

PRINCIPLE TO PROCESS

Recognizing what you are unable to do is essential for any beneficial relationship.

Message 7: June 9, 2019

REFLECT & PROCESS WITH OTHERS
SOAP Verses: Galatians 2:20-21

SCRIPTURE

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATIONS

PRAYER

Message 7: Identity

1. Why are we all on an “Identity quest?”

2. What are the two places a person looks to find their identity?

3. Process the statement: “Identity amnesia will always lead to identity replacement.”

4. How do you know when you’re putting your identity in the wrong place or person? What are some of the signs?

PRINCIPLE TO PROCESS

If you’re not resting in your identity in Christ, you will look for it in something or someone else.

Message 8: June 16, 2019

REFLECT & PROCESS WITH OTHERS

SOAP Verses: Proverbs 3:5-6

SCRIPTURE

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATIONS

PRAYER

Message 8: Control

1. When you are not in control, what emotions come to the surface?

2. Why do we all struggle with control? What do you think is the root issue beneath the need for control?

3. Even if you could control your children, spouse, parent, or any other relationship, why would this still not be enough?

PRINCIPLE TO PROCESS

The goal in our relationships is not control of behavior, but rather heart and life-change.