

The background is a dark teal color with a repeating pattern of various white icons. These icons include shopping carts, smartphones, diamonds, briefcases, and circular symbols with an 'L' or a clock face. The text is centered in a white, sans-serif font.

FIRST
THINGS
FIRST

First Things First

I'm excited for us to step into our stewardship series that's called *First Things First*. We just concluded a series in the book of Genesis and in the series we were constantly confronted with the character of God. We have a God who is mighty and powerful, but He's a God who is benevolent and gracious. We repeatedly saw God's patience and grace. He continually calls, seeks, finds, clothes and provides. In other words, we have a God who is generous. *First Things First* is a small series to challenge us to look like our God. I long for our church body to reflect Him to each other and those around us. However, being generous doesn't come naturally for the majority of us. We need to practice generosity. May God give us the desire and ability to be a people that reflect Him with the resources He has graciously given us.

We are excited to provide this resource to our Small 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) A 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.

Message 1: November 17, 2019

REFLECT & PROCESS WITH OTHERS

SOAP Verse: Leviticus 23:9-14

SCRIPTURE

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATIONS

PRAYER

Message 1: Leviticus 23:9-14

1. Why is it important to talk about stewardship as a part of our discipleship process?

2. How is the Feast of Firstfruits a celebratory event and an act of faith for the Israelites of their day? Is this true of believers today?

3. How is the Feast of Firstfruits prophetic? What significant event in history happened on the Sabbath after Passover (see also 1 Corinthians 15)?

4. Where else in Scripture do you see that God desires and is pleased to receive the first?

5. "Pursue God, pursue others, and practice His ways" is our new mission statement. How does the concept of firstfruits apply?

6. Is the Principle of Firstfruits still valid for New Testament believers? Why or why not? (This will be addressed next week).

Message 2: November 24, 2019

REFLECT & PROCESS WITH OTHERS

SOAP Verse: Matthew 23:23-24

SCRIPTURE

OBSERVATIONS

APPLICATIONS

PRAYER

Message 2: Matthew 23:23-24

1. Why did God build a firstfruit offering into the seven feasts?

2. How is the concept of firstfruit an issue of trusting God?

3. In what ways do you see the Principle of Firstfruits in the Old Testament and New Testament being displayed?

4. Is the Principle of Firstfruits still valid and relevant for New Testament believers? Why or why not?

5. What is one step God is asking you to take as a result of this series?

6. "Pursue God, pursue others, and practice His ways" is our new mission statement. How does the concept of firstfruits apply?



Contact Information

3090 N Center Point Rd
Cedar Rapids, IA 52411

319.395.0021

info@ncbc.church

To email a staff member directly, email
Firstname.Lastname@ncbc.church