

S. O. A. P.

- S – Scripture** – Write the verse or phrase from the reading that jumps out to you. Write the words. Don't just write "verse 3 was really good."
- O – Observation** – As you think about the verse or phrase you wrote down for "S", write in your own words the truth God is trying to communicate in this verse. Do your best. The hope is that if the author of the book read what you wrote, he would say, "Yes that's what I meant."
- A – Application** – Write down how this applies to your life. What would my life look like if I lived out this truth?
- P – Pray** – Write a prayer for God to transform your life around this truth.

A sample journal entry:

Thursday May 8	John 15:1-8
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S This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit showing yourselves to be my disciples.

O Disciple is not a title you just get. A disciple is a person who is known by his or her actions. Actually, it's not the action he is does, but it's the results or fruit of his actions that make him a disciple. Not the flurry of activity. This fruit is a byproduct of a connection to God. It's God's activity through our work that produces fruit. Our job is to remain connected to his power and ability as we obey him.

A I must stay close and connected to Christ so that as I follow his commands he might make my efforts fruitful.

P Father, help me to be fruitful. Help me to see the fruitfulness of my life.

(If you run into a word or phrase you don't understand write it down in this space to study later or ask someone about it.)

Chart your progress

Create a chart page for your journal:

The Basic version

- List the five days a week
- Write in their corresponding dates
- Simply mark which days you did a devotion

This basic version will give you an honest picture of your devotional consistency. This is not designed to produce guilt. Its purpose is to help keep you on track.

The Deluxe version

- Create a title to sum up the point of that day's reading
- Write in that day's scripture reading
- Indicate if it was an inspired devotional time (*)
- Indicate if there was something to be studied later (study)
- Leave blank the days you missed
- Pick up your reading where you left off

(Basic)

(Deluxe)

Day	Date	Topic / summary statement	script	study
M	9/6		Gal.	
T	9/7	Into the unknown	4:8-9	
W	9/8	Rely on the promise not deeds	4:20-31	
Th	9/9	Rules or Christ choose Christ	5:1-11	*
F	9/10	Freedom to serve and love	5:12-15	
M	9/13			
T	9/14	Spirit makes sinful nature obvious	5:16-26	study
W	9/15	Restore people with gentleness	6:1-5	
Th	9/16			
F	9/17			
M	9/20	Do good to all	6:6-10	*
T	9/21	Don't sweat religious acts of faith	6:11-18	
W	9/22	Do courageous acts of love	Col. 1:1-8	study
Th	9/23	Pray for believers to grow	1:9-14	
F	9/24	Christ's death our cleansing	1:15-23	
M	9/27			
T	9/28			
W	9/29			
Th	9/30			
F	10/1			

This deluxe version will give you easy access to important journal entries you may want to review and help you easily find what you want to study.