

S.O.A.P.



Tommy Gray | May 29, 2011

In a nutshell:

If you're going to get the most from *The Divine Mentor*, you'll need to use S.O.A.P.: Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer.

Icebreaker: It's Memorial Day Weekend!

Discuss: Did you serve in the military? Share a little about your specialty and deployments. If you did not serve, tell about your parents or a relative who served.

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

Mentors: The dictionary says that a mentor is a trusted counselor, guide, tutor or coach; a wise and faithful adviser and teacher. In business, sports, or family relationships we look to mentors for wise counsel. We will never turn around our business, our game, or our life until we spend consistent time with a mentor.

Discuss: Do you think of using scripture as a "mentor" that can help you with your daily life, or as a chore or obligation? Has your view changed over time?

The Bible is useful. Read II Timothy 3:14-17. (Use multiple translations and look for similarities and differences.) Most of us learned to lean into the Word primarily for teaching, and not so much for the others.

Discuss: What are the differences between teaching, rebuking (thinking), correcting (behavior), training, and equipping? Which of these is easiest for you to neglect? What can you do to pay more attention to that particular role of scripture?

Formation not Information. James 1:22, 25 says, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says... But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does."

Discuss: If we really believe that the purpose of scripture is spiritual transformation and not just information, how would it change what we do as a church, individually, and in our small groups?

As a Group: "The doctrine of instant gratification is a spiritual problem... We don't need smarter or more gifted people; we need "deep" people." (Richard Foster). People grow "deep" by spending time with *The Divine Mentor*. Friendship's upcoming series *Life Journey* will take us through the pages of scripture using S.O.A.P.: reading scripture, observing and prayerfully applying its truths.

Discuss: Will you be joining others at Friendship in using S.O.A.P. and tracking your progress using the *Life Journal*? Would you consider doing this as a group?