



## Eighth Grade Summer Reading List

### Bible Selection:

- The book of James

### Nonfiction Title:

- *Do Hard Things* by Alex and Brett Harris

### Fiction Title (choose one):

- *Banner in the Sky* by James Ramsey Ullman
- *Navigating Early* by Clare Vanderpool
- *The Incredible Journey* by Sheila Burnford

## Summer Reading Assignments for 8th Grade

**Bible selection:** Students are to read the selection listed above and complete **five** (5) SOAP journal entries based on the stated scripture passage. All five SOAP journals entries are due on the first Friday of the school year.

**Nonfiction Title:** Students are to read, highlight, and annotate the required book above. Students will be required to turn in their marked copy of the book and complete a written assessment of the book during the first full week of the new school year.

**Fiction Title:** Students are to read, highlight, and annotate their chosen book above. Students will be required to turn in their marked copy of the book and complete a written assessment of the book during the first full week of the new school year.

# S.O.A.P Journal Instructions

God's word is living and applicable to our lives at all ages and stages of life. In order to properly understand and apply God's word to our lives, we must seek to study His and hear what truths He has for us. We can do this by rightly dividing God's word, and spending time meditating on the scriptures that speak to our heart. In order to help our students divide God's word this summer, we would like for them to use the SOAP Bible study method. This method is simple but effective. Students will read their assigned Bible reading and complete the appropriate amount of SOAP journal entries for their grade level.

SOAP is an acronym for:

- Scripture
- Observation
- Application
- Prayer

## Step 1 - S is for Scripture

After reading your assigned Bible passage, you will pick a verse that really spoke to your heart or stuck out to you. You want to keep this simple.

You will write out the verse and reread the verse a few times slowly. Take your time in this step.

An example verse could be Philippians 4:8

“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things.” - Philippians 4:8

## Step 2 - O is for Observation

Observation is about what stood out to you about the scripture you chose, and what is the purpose of that scripture.

Take a few minutes and really ponder the verse. Write down a few truths you feel God is wanting you to learn. They can be warnings, truths, principles, commands, and more.

\*You can take this to the next level and use a Bible Dictionary, Bible Commentary, or a Strong's Concordance. This is getting more advanced, but the extra effort is very rewarding.

## Step 3 - A is for Application

The application section is more personal. This is a time where you think about what you observed and ask yourself if you are applying these truths in your life. If you are, list some examples of how. If you aren't, what are some ways that you could begin applying them?

Write down practical ways you can apply what you learned and make the Word come alive in your life.

## Step 4 - P is for Prayer

Consider the last three steps and talk to God about it! Tell Him how the verse impacted you and how you desire to apply His Word to your life. Ask Him for grace, guidance, wisdom, and strength

to help you apply His truths to your life. Write down a prayer that goes along with what you learned from the scripture you chose.

Example:

*Dear Father,*

*Thank you for your truth in your Word. Lord, I ask that you would help me and give me the grace to make you my first in every aspect of my life. That I would be one who seeks hard after your Kingdom and your Righteousness. God help me to trust you. That I don't need to worry about my day or the days to come, but that as I seek You, you will make my path straight. Thank you, Lord, for your love and goodness may it cover me all the days of my life. In the mighty name of Jesus! Amen.*

Please print off and use the template below to complete your SOAP Journal Entry(ies).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## S.O.A.P Journaling

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Passage: \_\_\_\_\_

**Scripture** – Verse or verses that stand out to me.

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**Observation** – What is the purpose of this scripture? What is God showing me?

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**Application** – How does this apply to my life? What will I do about it?

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**Prayer** – Thank God, and ask Him for guidance and strength to help you apply His truths.

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