

Sacred Thoughts

A serene sunset scene over the ocean. The sun is a bright, glowing orb just above the horizon, casting a long, horizontal streak of light across the sky. The sky transitions from a deep orange near the horizon to a pale yellow at the top. The ocean below is dark with gentle, white-capped waves. The text 'Sacred Thoughts' is written in a large, elegant, pink cursive font, positioned in the upper half of the image.

SOAP

Instructions



I first learned about the SOAP Journaling Plan from Pastor Wayne Cordeiro at New Hope Oahu and I'm grateful for his mentoring in spiritual development.

Instructions

First, select your Bible passage. If you don't have a plan, I recommend you grab the YouVersion Bible App (available free for IOS, Android, and for your computer as well). Read the passage or passages *Lectio Divina* (easily done with a Bible app). As you read, take note of the one passage, phrase, or word that jumps out at you. Highlight that passage and when you're done reading, take out your journal.

For each journal entry include the date and give your entry a descriptive title. Pastor Cordeiro liked starting his journaling on page five or further so he could create a *Table of Contents* at the front of the journal book – I've created a contents page in the for you already.

SOAP

Instructions



Back to the journal entry. Pastor Wayne used the anagram SOAP.

S: Scripture. Jot down the scripture reference and write out the passage in your journal.

O: Observations. Answer the question, "Why did this passage jump out at me?" And write down your general thoughts about the passage – but no more than a paragraph.

A: Application. What are you going to do about what you read? Or more to the point, what is God asking you to do as a result of your reading and observation.

P: Pray. This isn't the time for your prayer list ... this is the time to commit your decisions about the passage to God. Write your prayer so you can come back to it sometime later.

There you have it ... a less-than-30-minute prayer–journaling appointment. And, since most of your congregation is struggling with how to do devotional affectively, why not invite them to join you for YOUR special one–on–one time with God somewhere out in public where THEY can watch and learn?



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Application:

Jot down what you're going to do about it. What does God want you to do about it?

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Prayer:

Write a prayer of commitment sharing with God what you're going to do.





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GET THE BLUEPRINT



Let's be honest, Sunday School and Bible Studies have pretty much failed the church when it comes to making faithful disciples of Jesus. Using the Disciple Making Blueprint, you'll turn your guests and your members into Great Commission disciples of Jesus.

Most Church Members Aren't Disciple Makers

The Quick Disciple Making Blueprint Will ...

- Create a Disciple-Making Strategy In Your Church
- Launch a Small Group Ministry that Actually Disciples
- Transform the Status Quo with Accountability

→ And See Lives Begin to Change In As Few As 3 Weeks!

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

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If your church still has empty seats on Sunday mornings, then we need to talk! I recently launched a program that's helping pastors across North America increase their first-time visitor counts week in and week out. **The Growing Church Network** is a new program designed to turn busy pastors into Church Growth Catalysts that have the tools, the time, and the knowhow to move their church's growth gauge from half-empty to full.

Click the button below to schedule a free one-on-one Strategic Planning call with one of my coaches. They'll help you get clarity around what you *really* want to accomplish in the next year – and help you identify what's getting in the way. Then if it seems like the **Growing Church Network** can help you

get there, we'll share how we can work together so you can become the next Church Growth Catalyst.

Click Now – you've got nothing to lose except all those empty seats!

[Click to Get Started Now](#)

