SOAP Bible Study

To get started:

You need a pen, journal or paper, and your Bible

Start with prayer and asking God to open your heart to what he has to reveal to you through reading his word. Ask him to teach you more about himself.

Identify the passage of scripture you want to read through. I typically read a chapter of the Old Testament and New Testament a day. My study focus is usually on the New Testament passage but there are days when I study the Old Testament passage more in-depth.

The SOAP Method of Bible Study:

S - Scripture. Read through a passage of scripture. Pick a passage that is longer than 3 verses. You want to have between a paragraph and a chapter to focus on.

O - Observation. Observe what is happening in the scripture passage you've read or are reading. Some people prefer to do steps 1 and 2 together.
Record your observations. Look for:
- Key characters
- Who is speaking
- What is the tone of the passage
- New words that you want to look up for their meaning
- Verses that catch your attention
- Verses that you don't understand
- What do you feel as you read through the passage
- What is the context of your passage
- What was the original audience or meaning

A - Application. Write down what God is telling you. What is your application of this passage to your day and life?

Identify the lesson that was taught to those it was originally written to and how does it apply to today?

P - Prayer. Spend time talking to God about what you've learned or what you don't understand. He wants you to understand the Bible. Ask him to help you. Pray about the application of what you read - what does this look like to God and the way he wants you to live?

I like to journal my prayers so I can look back and see how God's answered them. You don't have to write them down, but I find it helpful.

You can title your study for the day based on the theme or what God taught you through the study. Again, this is not a necessary step but one you may find helpful as you look back through your journal.