Date:	Dates Followed through:	Scripture Passage:

#### **PREPARE**

#### Remember

- This is important and needed time with God and his Word. It's not just an activity to do.
- This is a relational time and experience, not just an informational time. The purpose of this time is to hear and understand what God is saying to you through his Word and to respond appropriately.
- No one can live only on food. People need every word that God has spoken [Matt. 4:4b, CEV].
- Come with the attitude, "Lord, what do you want to say to me or show me through your Word?"
- Put other things aside and enjoy this time with God, his Word, and others.

## Pray

• Pray the following silently:

Search me [thoroughly], O God, and know my heart; Test me and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there is any wicked or hurtful way in me, and Lead me in the everlasting way. [Ps. 139:23-24, Amp].

"Lord, is there any sin that I have not confessed and dealt with?" Take a moment to think about it. Repeat the question.

**If there is**, confess it to God and thank him for his forgiveness. Tell him that you want to change and follow his way instead. Then, by faith, give the control of your life back to the Spirit of Christ within you to lead, guide, and empower you.

**If there isn't**, thank God that the Spirit of Christ within you is leading, guiding, and empowering you.

• **Before you open the Bible**, it's important to pray, acknowledging God's presence and asking him to open your eyes to the truth, guidance, and power of his Word.

#### **Pray the following:**

"Lord, thank you for your presence, and for the truth, guidance, and power of your Word. I ask you to speak to me, reveal more of yourself, and give me insight and understanding."

Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your instructions. Turn my eyes from worthless things, and give me life through your word. You made me; you created me. Now give me the sense to follow your commands [Ps. 119:18, 37, 73]. "I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen."

# **SCRIPTURE PASSAGE**

• Take a minute or two and read the passage silently before we begin discussing each verse separately.

### **EXPLORE**

• As a group, we will read and discuss the passage **one verse at a time.** Write the verse number in the left column and write down any thoughts or notes during the group discussion.

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• Turn the page over, and **on your own**, do as much of the **FOCUS** and **RESPOND** sections as you can.

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	What does the <b>Scripture</b> I wrote down above <b>mean or imply?</b> Ask the question <b>several times</b> and write down as nany things as you can. You may also ask, "What can one learn or conclude from the Scripture I wrote down?"
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	ou do not finish the FOCUS and RESPOND sections during this time, complete them on your own <b>in the next day o</b>
	<b>POND</b> and apply what God is saying to you or showing you in his Word.  Vrite down what you will <b>do, change</b> , or <b>pray about</b> from what you are focusing on in the passage.
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**FOLLOW THROUGH** on the Scripture you focused on [typically 10 to 15 minutes, **two or more times** in the next several days]. Proverbs 4:7b in the Voice Bible says: *Now, whatever else you do, follow through to understanding*.

**To follow through** on the Scripture you focused on, do the following:

- 1) Do the *Remember* and *Pray* sections on page 1.
- 2) Mark the follow through date in the space on the top of page 1, then read the passage on page 2 again.
- 3) Read what you wrote in both the FOCUS and RESPOND sections above, writing down any additional thoughts.
- **4)** Conclude by praying the prayer you wrote in the RESPOND section.