**Bible Study & Journaling Instructions**

This Bible study is suitable for those who have never studied the Bible before as well as those who have been studying God’s Word for years. The method of study is simple:

Begin by praying that God will speak to your heart as you get into His Word, and read the passage. Be open to encouragement, direction or correction from the Lord as you read. Underline key phrases or make notations in the margins of your Bible as the Lord brings to mind people or situations you should pray for, promises to stand upon, or lessons you need to apply to your life.

After reading the passage, answer the questions.

Then select a verse or paragraph that particularly spoke to you or caught your attention. If nothing “jumps off the page”, select a sentence or two that you think might have some spiritual significance to your life.

Copy that verse or passage word for word. Writing out the verse or verses will help you remember what God is saying to you.

Then, in your own words, write what you observed in that verse or paragraph. (Consider: What is the context? What or who is it about? How would I have felt or reacted had I been there? What is really being said? What does it mean? Why is it important?)

Next, and most importantly, write out how this passage applies to your life. Is there something you need to change? A promise to stand on? An order to follow? Write out how you will be different because of what you have just read.

Finally, write a brief prayer to God, based on this passage. Thank Him for speaking to you. Tell Him what’s on your heart. Ask Him to help you change based on what you have just read.

A simple acrostic to help you remember these steps is **“SOAP”**

**S = Scripture**

**O = Observation**

**A = Application**

**P = Prayer**

Example:

S: Colossians 1:26-27 “This message was kept secret for centuries and generations past, but now it has been revealed to God’s people. **27**For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.” (NLT)

O: For centuries and generations past, God has had a plan which was only revealed after Christ’s resurrection - that Jesus’ spirit would dwell in people who choose to be His followers, and they would share in His glory. This applies to Jews and Gentiles alike – to anyone who puts their faith and trust in Jesus.

A: Jesus is in me! What an amazing privilege to have Jesus’ spirit in me, and to be able to show through my life, what He’s like. This is an indescribably huge privilege and honor, and I really want my lifestyle and countenance to display Him! To display Jesus accurately, I need to be disciplined and obedient and let Him lead me continuously.

P: Dear Lord – Thank you for this indescribably amazing gift you’ve given me . . .your own spirit within me. I feel so privileged, yet inadequate. Please help me to notdisplease you through any of my attitudes or words or actions. Help me to display you well. Radiate your love through me. Give me your words and help me act like you, so others around me will want what I have = YOU, and will come to know you for themselves. I pray in Jesus Name, Amen.