**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: Genesis 3:13: “Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

O: God called Eve to account for her sin. Before she sinned, she didn’t realize Satan, disguised as a serpent, was deceiving her, but afterwards she realized she’d been duped. Nevertheless, she was responsible for disobeying God and she took responsibility.

A: My best safeguard against being deceived and led into sin is to stay in God’s word, remember what He’s said, and simply obey. Once I start allowing others to talk me out of what God’s said and get me to question Him, I’m susceptible to being deceived like Eve was.

P: Dear Lord, please help me to learn from Eve’s mistake to not allow others to talk me out of simply obeying You, because I know You have my good at heart and I don’t want my relationship with You messed up by sin.