Date: \_\_\_ Bible Text: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Bible Study Method(s): Inductive ( 1 or 2 ) / Associative / Devotional

Step I: What does this text mean?

Step II: What does this text mean to me?

Step III. How can I apply this text to my life?

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**3. Devotional Bible Study**

While every form of Bible study can be a spiritual undertaking, *devotional Bible* *study* places a special emphasis on meditation and prayer. The Bible is not just a book of historical events. It is a personal message from God. It reveals and makes more intimate our relationship with God. It seeks the answers to such questions as, “What did I learn about God (or Jesus, or the Holy Spirit) in this passage?” “How should my life change in light of what I have read?”

*Devotional Bible study* is a contemplative and reflective approach to scripture that seeks contact with God’s will. It is not to be confused with self-centered philosophical meditation. *Devotional Bible study* is God-centered. The very personal nature of *devotional Bible study* makes it equally suited to the novice Bible reader and the mature Christian. The intent is to grow closer to God. God meets you where you are and leads you to the place where you ought to be. It is the outworking of the idea that we are to “look into the perfect law of liberty…” (James 1:25) and then do God’s will.

The key to *devotional Bible study* is consistency. 1) Set aside a regular and specific time for your devotional study. This practice will add stability to your life and give you a daily appointment with God. 2) Choose a place that is quiet and suited to study and meditation. Gather study materials in this place that will help you understand the Bible. 3) Pray for God’s guidance and enlightenment. God has promised to bless those who seek His presence. 4) Read with the intent to discover what God wants to say to you. Spiritual treasures lie undisclosed that you cannot yet imagine. 5) Meditate on the passage; visualize and imagine as you pray and read. God can only speak to those who are listening. 6) Look for ways to apply what you have learned. God is waiting to enrich your spiritual life.

**Note:** Meditation is usually considered to be an individual spiritual exercise. However, if we reflect on Scripture in a small group, we can share experiences that might suggest a spiritual direction we would not have realized on our own. Such an exchange can enhance Christian fellowship and spur us to greater action.

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