

# Word Life

## Leading a Group to Reflect on Scripture

Choose a passage that your group will reflect on—the paragraph headings in your Bible will help you select which verses to reflect on each week, or you can use the passages on the back of your Bookmark, or just choose your own passage. **Remember: your job is *not* to teach the group but to help your friends reflect on scripture and apply it to their lives.**

Please remember to have your friends reflect **individually** before reflecting together as a group. That way everyone learns to do their own reflection on scripture, and everyone has done some work on their own before talking in the group!

**Here are FOUR STEPS in leading a group of friends to reflect on scripture.**

**1) Have the passage READ OUT LOUD by someone other than yourself.** *Very quickly participants will begin identifying words and phrases they want to Reflect on as the passage is being read. This is good—it fosters interactive listening instead of consumerism.*

### **2) REFLECT & APPLY INDIVIDUALLY**

*After the passage is read, ask participants to write words or phrases in their journals that caught their attention, or where they paused, or that “came off the page” while it was read. Ask them to spend some time reflecting on those words and phrases. Remind them to look at the notes in their study Bibles to get some input from Bible scholars about those words and phrases. Ask them to jot down their reflections. After a several minutes, remind them to apply the words and phrases to themselves and the church. Allow at least 5-7 minutes of time for individual work—reminding them a minute before you call time to make sure they take some time to apply the passage.*

*Just before you end the Reflection time, remind participants to list one thing they are thankful for and one thing they would like prayer for.*

**3) FRIENDS REFLECTING TOGETHER.** *Decide in advance how you’ll have the group work on this. There are three basic formats, each of which can be accomplished in 7 minutes—or you can relish up to 40 minutes if you have enough time:*

- a) Depending on their skill, a group of about 10-18 can reflect as a whole*
- b) Sometimes it’s best to have all the reflecting done in a small group of 2-6 people. They reflect together, and then pray in pairs or threes.*
- c) Best of all, often, is having people reflect with one or two others for ½ of the reflection time, and then move to the whole group for whole group reflection. The question to the whole group is: Did you hear something in your small group that the whole group ought to hear and reflect on. Then, open it up to any and all reflections, as well.*

**4) PRAY.** *Ask them to share briefly their thanksgiving and their request. About halfway through the allotted time for the prayer segment, remind groups to actually begin praying. Many Christians are used to sharing prayer requests but never actually praying. This time can end in several ways: ask groups that finish praying early to either exit quietly or to chat quietly; invite people to join you in the Lord’s Prayer.*