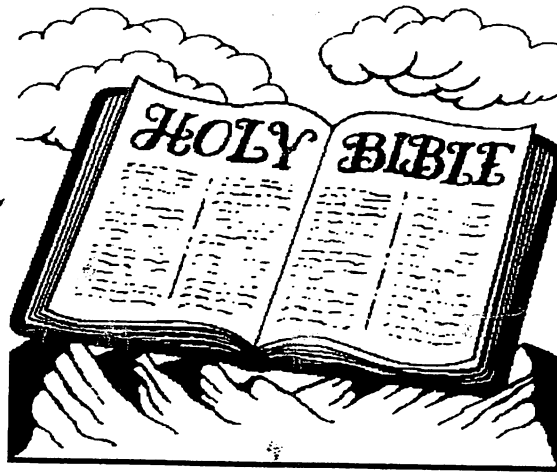


# *Praying with the Scriptures*



*Beforehand, find the passage you will pray with. When you open the book, be aware that you are in the presence of the Living Word, the One who guarantees all that is written.*

- \* Now, *first*, read through the whole passage slowly, moving your lips or even reading softly out loud ( to distinguish this from reading reports or newspapers ).
- \* Then, *second*, put the book aside and from memory write down words or phrases that stay with you. ( If you can recall none, check the text or read it once again, then jot down what impresses you. )
- \* *Third*, take each of the words or phrases you have jotted down and think about it. What does it mean? Who said it? What was the speaker feeling? To whom was the the word or phrase addressed? While you are considering this way, you may think of God in the third person.
- \* *Fourth*, all along, or as you are coming to the end, think about what this all means to you: to your personal history, your world, your life, your self.
- \* *Finally*, end this way: Consciously gather up your thoughts and then turn to God our Lord. Tell God what you thought about, and feel in God's presence what you have felt. What would you give to God? What do you want of God?

*In general, you do not "finish" a passage. A passage is not an assignment; it is a place to find God. Sometimes, you will find almost no meaning in a passage; then, beg God for insight and a tender heart, and stay with the passage as long as you can.*

*Any passage where you find tremendous meaning, and any passage where you find nothing but dust and boredom - you need to return to these until you know you are done with it. Then go on to another. Praying Scripture has nothing to do with "getting through" passages and books; it has everything to do with letting the meaning and the values of each single word sink into your life.*