

## Suggested Devotion Guide

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### *Opening Prayer*

Dear Father in heaven, we come to you in the name of your Son Jesus, asking for your blessing on our devotion. As we read and talk about your Word, send the Holy Spirit into both our hearts and strengthen us in our faith. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen. (Additional opening prayers may be found after the devotion section.)

### *Devotion*

Read any of the devotions found in the devotion section, repeating them as often as you wish.

### *Discussion of the Devotion*

Refer to something specific which has happened in your lives related to the devotion. Example: *Do you remember, Dad, when . . . ?* trying to draw out a response. If there is no response, try to refresh his memory by talking about the situation, tying it in with God's Word in the devotion. While you may have to do most of the talking there will be times when your question will trigger a response.

### *Sharing of a Psalm*

Read or recite Psalm 23, *The Lord is my Shepherd . . .* or another favorite psalm. Once again you are using God's powerful Word which is able to penetrate into the heart and strengthen faith.

### *Closing Prayer*

Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Cast us not away from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from us. But restore unto us the joy of your salvation and grant us a willing spirit to sustain us. In Jesus' name. Amen. (Additional closing prayers may be found after the devotion section.)

### *The Lord's Prayer*

Here it is helpful to take hold of your loved one's hands while you pray, telling her that she may pray along with you in her heart while you pray aloud or she may say the words with you if she wants to. Pray slowly while holding tightly to her hands.

### *Comments*

You may not recognize any reaction at first to the Scripture or to your discussion. Don't be discouraged. This will come in time. Some days it will be very apparent that you have connected, other days you may not know for certain. Again, be patient. In one way or another the Lord will make it clear to you that your dear one is feeling His power at work in your loved one's heart. God bless you in your work of reaching out!