



**MENS New Beginnings
Re-Entry Program (NBRP)**

January 1, 2019 Update (SJS)

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FOCUS Ministries Re-Entry Program

FOCUS Ministries Vision and Mission

FOCUS Ministries exists to foster hope behind the walls and provide a pathway for successful re-entry in Knoxville. FOCUS Ministries aids in new beginnings through a three-fold pathway.

The FOCUS Pathway

1. **Inspiring** men and women inside through values-based programming and life-skills coaching
2. **Empowering** men and women outside through residential living, mentoring, and employment
3. **Restoring** families through strategic initiatives, reconciliation, and special events

New Beginnings Re-Entry Program (NBRP)

FOCUS Ministries (FOCUS) seeks to provide the highest level of residential re-entry programming available in Knoxville. Re-entry programming targets character development, recovery support, workforce engagement, family reconciliation, adventure recreation, and strategic community service.

The MENS New Beginnings house is located at 826 N. Broadway, Knoxville TN 37917.

Staffing

The *FOCUS Executive Director* provides oversight and support to the re-entry staff and program.

The *FOCUS Men's Re-Entry Coordinator* oversees entry interviews for the re-entry house as well as executes the day-to-day operations of the program; case management, course-work, classes, transportation, discipline, and leveling evaluations.

The *Residential Living Coordinator* provides watch over the men of the house during the evening, weekend hours and outside of regularly scheduled program times. This individual works closely with the Re-entry Coordinator and the Re-entry Team to provide a safe and secure program environment at all times. (Only students who have graduated can apply for this role)

The *FOCUS Re-Entry Administrator* assists the Coordinators with class scheduling, curriculum procurement, paperwork processing, and case management of students in the program.

The *FOCUS Re-entry Team* is made up of the *FOCUS Executive Director*, *Re-entry Coordinator*, *Re-entry Administrator*, *Residential Living Coordinator*, and FOCUS counseling or agency partners. This group works together to award approval to program applicants, discuss leveling evaluations, handle discipline needs, and make adjustments to the re-entry program process as needed.

FOCUS Re-Entry Levels Overview

Level 1: EYES on JESUS

6 weeks – Various life-skills and faith-based classes as well as a strong re-entry adjustment emphasis

Level 2: SURRENDER

6 weeks – Students begin employment with a workplace partner and focus on recovery skills

Level 3: ENDURANCE

3 months – Students learn about endurance, responsibility with new freedoms, and family restoration

Level 4: SACRIFICE

3 months – Students focus on community service and long-term success planning

Level 5: VICTORY

Graduation & Independent Living – Students will be assisted in the independent living transition

Uniqueness & Innovations of the Program

- 1) Structured 12-week minimum pre-release program in East Tennessee jails and prisons
- 2) Intentional and individualistic case management
- 3) Strong recovery programming, vibrant therapeutic community, professional counselors
- 4) High emphasis on generational mentoring (i.e. - Recovery, The Cloud of Witnesses)
- 5) Incentivizing success, progress, and healthy pride nurtured by leveling achievements
- 6) Stringency to program tenants for success and development of strong self-discipline
- 7) FOCUS Adventure Experiences (i.e. - Retreats, Hiking, Camping, Paintball)

New Beginnings Re-Entry Program

The FOCUS New Beginnings Re-entry Program (NBRP) provides a nine-month Christian re-entry program serving men released from Tennessee prisons and jails. The program includes residential services for nine (9) months, graduation, and support during the transition to independent living. The goal of this program is to provide a safe, Christian environment for students with excellent support in an atmosphere designed for students to succeed.

Students will take advantage of spiritual growth studies and life skills classes all while developing an individual recovery plan to deal with any life-controlling issues. Each of these components will begin during level one and continue into advanced levels. Students will also enter the workplace with an opportunity to employ skills and develop new ones in meaningful employment opportunities.

Students are expected to **make a nine-month commitment** to the FOCUS program. During the nine months, program participants are in the process of moving from minimum freedom to total freedom. Therefore, students are encouraged to trust the process – learning to be patient with the FOCUS Staff, students, themselves and God.

Benefits of the New Beginnings Re-Entry Program

- ❑ Opportunity to live in a Christian environment and to discover God's plan for life
- ❑ Counseling; space is given for students to deal with re-entry issues of spiritual growth, mental health, relationships, financial, vocational and addiction recovery
- ❑ Re-entry living skills provided through continuing education (job readiness, budgeting, computer training, time management, etc.)
- ❑ Transportation to and from court, probation/parole, doctor appointments, etc.
- ❑ Employment opportunities and transportation provided with local employers

Program Fees

Admission Fee - Students eligible for the RHP grant (Re-Entry Housing Project) grant will not need to pay an admission fee. Students without RHP eligibility may be charged a \$250 admission fee.

Level 1 Scholarship - A \$500 conditional scholarship for Level 1 students has been established in addition to admission fee. This \$500 scholarship will be awarded when a student completes the nine (9) months of residential living. If a student were to leave the program early or be dismissed this scholarship would be forfeited.

Weekly Rent - Student will be placed in a sustainable job upon reaching Level 2 of the program and will be expected to begin paying rent a weekly of \$130 at the first pay period.

Program Fees and Savings Account - Student will be required to fund a non-accessible savings account as defined in the Financial Transactions in the General Guidelines section. Level 2, 3, and 4 student rent and savings account funds will be maintained by a student from the weekly paycheck.

Student Levels - As in our spiritual and physical lives, we grow to new levels. FOCUS has determined that students will progress through certain levels as they grow toward "total freedom," becoming who God wants them to be in their communities and families. Each student is expected to complete all levels of the program to qualify for graduation.

UNDERSTANDING THE LEVELS

FOCUS on Scripture

Scripture is both a voice of authority as well as a guide for all that FOCUS Ministries seeks to accomplish. The passage below, selected from the book of Hebrews, serves as a guide to describe the theme and intent of the FOCUS Re-Entry Program levels.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." - Hebrews 12:1-2

The Cloud of Witnesses

"Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses"

FOCUS strives to maximize its support structure through what is called *The Cloud of Witnesses*. In the biblical context, this *Cloud of Witnesses* is the sum total of Israel's heroes of the faith, shared about in Hebrews 11. The writer of Hebrews argues that in view of these former faith heroes, all believers ought to live a life of heroic faith and obedience to God.

FOCUS has developed a similar support group to champion student progress. The Cloud includes male FOCUS staff and Board of Directors members, select pastors, counselors, vital volunteer leaders, and former program graduates.

The *Cloud of Witnesses* is available to pray, offer spiritual encouragement, and celebrate the success of students. Students that complete the nine-month program will then be asked to join the cloud.

Level 1: EYES ON JESUS (Blue Band)

"Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith"

Description:

During the initial 6-weeks of the FOCUS NBRP, students are challenged to fix their eyes on Jesus in strategic ways. This level is one of the most challenging in the whole program due to its minimal amount of liberty. While the level of encouragement, support and communicated belief in each student's ability to complete the program successfully will be strong, the guidelines during this phase are stringent. The intentional structure and accountability early on are designed to build greater self-discipline for success during later levels of the program.

Curriculum during Level 1 of the program enhances how students daily look to Jesus. No matter the level, students are challenged at a heart, mind, and body level to develop healthy habits and routines for success. Class topics include the gospel, life of Jesus, prayer, spiritual gifts, scripture study and memorization, identity and integrity, and time management.

Recovery Components:

The theme of this level parallels the character building of partner recovery program pieces. Students attend such programs every Tuesday night and every fourth Thursday of the month. The first three of the 12-steps mirror the Level 1 "Eyes on Jesus" theme.

- 1) *Step 1: We admitted we were powerless over our addiction-- that our lives had become unmanageable.*
- 2) *Step 2: We came to believe that God could restore us to sanity.*
- 3) *Step 3: Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God*

Expectations & Restrictions

- There will be no cell phones or social media permitted during this level of the program

All Levels

- Students are permitted to smoke in designated smoking areas only. Chewing and vaping are not permitted inside the house at any time. Smoking is never encouraged and smoking cessation programs are always incentivized. Speak with staff about details.
- Keep maintaining a daily quiet time journal to share from at the house meeting
- Students are not permitted to leave the house under any circumstances unless given proper approval from a member of the FOCUS Re-entry Team
- Students are subject to random and mandatory drug testing
- See General Guidelines for information on day passes and visitations

Level 1 Sample Schedule:

| LEVEL 1 | AM (7 AM - 12 PM) | PM (12-5 PM) | NIGHT (5-10 PM) |
|------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| MONDAY | Daily Quiet Time ** Free-Time | Appointments | House Meeting & Meal |
| TUESDAY | Daily Quiet Time Level Work | Class Rec/Free-Time | Celebrate Recovery |
| WEDNESDAY | Daily Quiet Time Class | Level Work | Store Run Night |
| THURSDAY | Daily QT Class | Class Weekend Plan Work | Mentors from Cloud |
| FRIDAY | Daily QT Free-Time | Community Service | <i>Open Night</i> |
| SATURDAY | Follow Weekend Plan | for each student | <i>Open Night</i> |
| SUNDAY | Church | Rest | Store Run Night |

** See Appendix for Student Daily Quiet Time *Sticks, Stars, and Signs* guide

Level 1 Completion

Level 1 is complete when a student completes all necessary coursework and the Re-Entry Team confirms a student has demonstrated the heart and maturity needed for the second level of the program. A *Leveling-Up* ceremony will be held for progressing students with members of The Cloud of Witnesses.

Level 2: SURRENDER (White Band)

"Lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely"

Description:

Level 2 of the program centers on the theme of surrender. For the second 6-weeks, students focus on the habits and hang-ups which fed their addictions (chemical or not). This is a crucial stage as it addresses the root of deep-seated issues in the heart and minds of students. Students will grow to understand that surrendering to Jesus is necessary for a successful future. During Level 2 of the Re-entry program, students will also obtain full-time employment.

Discussions during Level 2 of the program emphasizes surrender, that students might find new life in Christ. Emphasis will also be on the "inventory" components of the recovery program, a study through key passages in Romans, and spiritual warfare.

Recovery Component:

The focus of this level parallels the character building of partner recovery programs. The next four of the 12-steps mirror the Level 2 "Surrender" theme.

- 1) *Step 4: We made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.*
- 2) *Step 5: We admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another the exact nature of our wrongs.*
- 3) *Step 6: We were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.*
- 4) *Step 7: We humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.*

Expectations & Restrictions

- NBRP Students begin working and are required to pay a weekly rent of \$130 and manage a personal savings account
- Students will have the privilege to purchase a personal cell phone upon staff approval

Level 2 - 5 Sample Schedule:

| LEVEL 2 | AM (5 AM - 12 PM) | PM (12-5 PM) | NIGHT (5-10 PM) |
|------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| MONDAY | Daily Quiet Time Work | Work | House Meeting & Meal |
| TUESDAY | Daily Quiet Time Work | Work | Celebrate Recovery |
| WEDNESDAY | Daily Quiet Time Work | Work | Store Run Night |
| THURSDAY | Daily Quiet Time Work | Work | Mentors from Cloud |
| FRIDAY | Daily Quiet Time Work | Work | <i>Open Night</i> |
| SATURDAY | Follow weekend plan | for each student | <i>Open Night</i> |
| SUNDAY | Church | Rest | Store Run Night |

*** See Appendix for Student Daily Quiet Time Sticks, Stars, and Signs guide*

Level 2 Completion

Level 2 is complete when a student completes all necessary coursework and the Re-entry Team confirms a student has demonstrated the maturity and the heart needed for the third level of the program. A *Leveling* ceremony will be held for progressing students with members of The Cloud of Witnesses.

Level 3: ENDURANCE (Green Band)

“Run with endurance”

Description:

Level 3 is appropriately named “Endurance” because instead of six weeks, this level lasts three months. It essentially doubles the time a student has between a leveling up ceremony, the set measurement of program success. FOCUS defines endurance in Level 3 as a steady and collective set of healthy decisions that students make to achieve long-term success.

Curriculum during Level 3 of the program centers on one’s steady, daily obedience to Christ. There is a strong emphasis placed on reconciling family relationships and broken friendships. Of course, no matter the level, students are challenged on a heart, mind, and body level to develop healthy habits and routines for success. Themes and studies include the family, budgeting, and the biblical accounts of both Jacob and Joseph (Genesis 25-51).

Recovery Component:

The theme of this level parallels the character building of partner recovery program pieces. Steps 8-10 of the 12-step process work together well with the FOCUS Level 3 “Run with Endurance” theme.

- 1) *Step 8: We made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.*
- 2) *Step 9: We made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.*
- 3) *Step 10: We continued to take personal inventory and when wrong promptly admitted it.*

Expectations & Restrictions

- To develop a future family and/or family reconciliation plan, coinciding with the amends making of the 12-step program
- To be fluent in the re-entry program processes, be a blessing to incoming students
- To take initiative and reach out to members of *The Cloud* for mentorship

Level 3 Completion

Level 3 is complete when a student completes all necessary coursework, including Scripture memory verses, and the Re-entry Team confirms a student has demonstrated the maturity and heart needed for the fourth level of the program. A *Leveling* ceremony will be held for progressing students with members of The Cloud of Witnesses on the second Monday of the month.

Level 4: SACRIFICE (Red Band)

"For the joy that was set before him endured the cross"

Description:

Level 4, the second 3-month level of the program, is aptly named "Sacrifice" as it addresses a man's need to make strategic sacrifices in life for a greater good. This sacrifice is modeled by Jesus in Hebrews 12:2. Students in Level 4 are challenged to embrace selfless service and purposeful mission. This is fulfilled first by planning and executing a community service project. Secondly, students are to outline a life purpose and mission plan. In other words, *"What great work does God have for them in the future?"* and *"How might they give back to others?"*

Level 4 students will also be eligible to pursue vocational or college classes, as far it does not interfere with ongoing requirements of the program and one's work schedule. Themes during Level 4 will center on the sacrifice of Jesus to leave heaven, become a man, and die for mankind. This sacrifice serves as the benchmark for our service. Scripture Readings will include John 13-17.

Recovery Component:

The theme of this level pairs well with Step 11 of the 12-Step program. This step takes sacrifice and strong self-awareness.

- 1) *Step 11: We sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.*

Expectations & Restrictions

- Students will be expected to develop a personal mission and purpose plan (exit plan)
- Students will be expected to take initiative and reach out to members of *The Cloud* for advice on being a man of both great sacrifice and great purpose
- Be connected to a church family in accountability, ministry, and tithing
- See General Guidelines concerning new relationships and Level 4
- Complete "Checklist for Independent Living" (Finances, Location, Graduation Date)

Level 4 Completion

Level 4 is complete when a student completes all necessary coursework, including both the service project and mission/purpose plan, in addition to approval of the Re-entry Team. A *Leveling* ceremony will be held for progressing students with members of The Cloud of Witnesses on the second Monday of the month.

NOTE: Level 4 will not be considered complete without a Re-Entry Team approved Home Plan.

Level 5: VICTORY (Yellow Band)

“Seated at the right hand of the throne of God”

Description:

When Jesus completed the victorious work of salvation, the author of Hebrews reports that He sat down at the right hand of the Father. This is a beautiful picture of spiritual victory. Jesus had done exactly as the Father had asked and returned to a place of perfect relationship at His side.

In Level 5, students have completed all the curriculum pieces of the program. After Re-entry Team approval, students will be ready to graduate. A *Graduation* ceremony will be held for all eligible students with members of The Cloud of Witnesses, friends, and family.

Since this phase is all about successful reintegration into everyday life, students are provided assistance in the 30-day transition to independent housing.

Recovery Component:

The freedom and sending components of Level 5 parallel the final step of the 12-step program. In light of all that has been learned and applied, students are encouraged to become one that helps others caught in the traps of addiction.

- 1) *Step 12: Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to others with life-controlling issues, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.*

Expectations & Restrictions

- ❑ To continue being a model of spiritual, physical, relational success for new students in the program by becoming a member of the cloud of witnesses.

Level 5 Completion

Level 5 is never truly complete. However, 60 days after graduation, FOCUS graduates are eligible to become mentors as a part of The Cloud of Witnesses.

Graduation & Beyond

“Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.” - Hebrews 12:3 (ESV)

GENERAL GUIDELINES

All NBRP Students have foreknowledge and confirmed understanding of guidelines before entering the program. This understanding will be reaffirmed during orientation and all students will agree to abide by them while an NBRP student. All students will be issued a copy of the guidelines for clarity and quick reference.

Respect: Show respect to other students and staff. Disrespect of any kind will not be tolerated and may lead to immediate dismissal from the program. In light of this:

- A student should only enter another student's room when that student is present
- Doors should not be locked – we should respect each other's property

Language: Students should use language that builds up and does not tear down the body of Christ and the FOCUS family. Profanity of any kind will not be tolerated while participating as a student in the NBRP, on or off FOCUS properties or worksites.

Financial Transactions: FOCUS feels it is important to help its students start and maintain a financial relationship, such as checking and savings accounts, also when needed and desired credit restoration with the bank or financial institution of their choice. It is forbidden for any student to enter into any financial transactions (lending, borrowing, buying, or selling) with other students, staff, mentors or any other person or business without prior approval from the Re-entry Coordinator.

Maintaining financial accounts in good standing is a priority. This is true of any new or existing checking and savings account created while a FOCUS student. Students agree to be accountable to the NBRP Staff by allowing them to review account(s) on a regular basis.

Savings Account: Students are required to fund a savings account beginning at employment. The first \$500 of savings is deemed a scholarship and is held by FOCUS in place of a mandatory program fee. Upon graduation, students can apply the \$500 scholarship to any independent housing needs.

If a student chooses to leave the program early or is dismissed, he will forfeit the \$500 scholarship. This amount and any past due rent will be deducted from the student's savings account at the time of dismissal.

The savings account requirements per level are as follows.

- 50% of the net pay in Level 2
- 25% of the net pay in Level 3
- 10% of the net pay in Level 4

Phones: As a student at NBRP, communication is very important. Therefore, a landline with unlimited long distance has been provided. Students can use the phone to keep in touch with staff, family and making appointments. A personal mobile phone is considered a privilege and can be awarded at Level 2 of the program when a student begins working.

Relationships: Sexual integrity is expected while a student/tenant is in the NBRP and in a housing agreement with FOCUS. Relationships outside marriage have been the cause of many students stumbling and ultimately returning to jail or prison; therefore, relationships are not permitted in Levels 1-3 unless a student is legally married. All relationships should be conducted with Christian honor, respect, and dignity.

Mail: All incoming mail will be received at Student's location and distributed by staff to students. NBRP understands the importance of communicating with family and friends through cards, letters, and emails and encourages our students to stay connected. However, we reserve the right to intervene and view any correspondence we feel has the potential to be deceptive or unhealthy.

Passes & Visitation: Since NBRP is responsible to Probation & Parole for our students, the following guidelines govern passes which are required for NBRP students to leave FOCUS property for four (4) hours or more. **Note:** Leaving the premises for less than 4 hours still requires staff **approval in advance.**

- ❑ **Level 1:** Students can request 1, 8-hour pass per month with approved family and friends. No overnight or weekend passes allowed.
- ❑ **Level 2:** Students can request up to 2, 8-hour passes with approved family and friends. No overnight or weekend passes allowed.
- ❑ **Level 3:** Students can request 1, 8-hour pass per weekend with approved family and friends. Students can also request 2, 24-hour passes per month. Eight-hour passes and 24-hour passes cannot be used during the same weekend.
- ❑ **Level 4:** Students can request 1, 8-hour pass per weekend with approved family and friends. Students can also request 2, 24-hour or 48-hour passes per month. Eight-hour passes and 24/48-hour passes cannot be used during the same weekend.
- ❑ **Visitations:** Students can substitute a 4-hour on-campus apartment visitation for any 8-hour pass for which they are eligible.
- ❑ Passes and Visitation requests are to be submitted during the Monday house meeting for the upcoming week. Students should allow up to three days for approval.
- ❑ Special events or mandatory programming can override any or all pass requests.
- ❑ Any passes involving a Sunday will require students return by Sunday 6 PM. All students granted a pass will be required to submit to a drug test upon return.

Food: Students will be permitted to apply for Food Stamps, but understand that Food Stamps will be monitored by NBRP Staff to ensure proper stewardship. FOCUS will also help to supplement some food items if the need arises.

- ❑ Students are expected to coordinate food needs and meal preparation with other students who share the same residence
- ❑ The actual card will remain in the student's possession while participating in NBRP
- ❑ NBRP staff reserves the right to intervene if suspicion of inappropriate use is suspected

Drugs and Alcohol: In order to provide a safe, drug-free and alcohol-free environment for all NBRP Students, we have a Zero Tolerance policy for possession or use. Each new student will be tested for drugs and alcohol. If a participant tests positive, he will not be permitted to continue the program.

Random drug testing, as well as, testing based on suspicion of use will take place. Appropriate disciplinary actions up to and including immediate discharge from the program will take place on failed tests. NO student will be accepted or permitted to stay at NBRP who is required to take any narcotic (pain medication) or extensive psychotropic prescription medications.

Employment Program

Level 1

- ❑ Students do not work in Level 1 and all students will participate in ministry service or fundraising activities without expected compensation.
- ❑ During Level 1, students will learn to write a resume, apply for jobs, and prepare for work.

Level 2 - 4

All students will be provided with an approved sustainable-wage job during Levels 2-4. At Level 4, students have the option to obtain approved employment outside an initially provided job. At the appropriate time, NBRP Staff will work to help in job placement.

Forbidden Work or Employment Opportunities

- ❑ *Self-employment.* No student in Level 4 or 5 will be permitted to declare self-employment without 1) tax structure and accounts in place, 2) Insurance and bonding 3) Clear and reasonable business plan in place.
- ❑ *Cash Employment:* At no time during a student's stay at NBRP will one be permitted to maintain a full or part-time job where taxes are not withheld and one does not do not receive a statement (stub) with details.

*** NBRP Students agree to work in any area that provides stable employment while a student.*

APPENDIX

Disciplinary Policy

If a student demonstrates any of the following, a plan disciplinary action will be enacted:

- Disrespecting any FOCUS staff, students, or volunteers
- Refusal to participate in required elements of the program
- Leaving the house without permission
- Activity deemed suspicious or unhealthy, possessing contraband items, a blatant lie

The following steps will be taken to carefully discipline a student:

- A written discipline form will be filled out by a Re-entry Team staff member
- The student in question will be informed of the disciplinary issue and given a chance to explain his behavior, verbally and in writing
- The discipline forms will be given to and discussed by the whole Re-entry team
- If a student is deemed out of compliance with the house rules, he will be subject to the D2R Discipline (Detour) approach. This approach is meant to deter unwanted behavior.

The D2R Discipline (Detour) Approach:

- 1) For **2** weeks, a student in discipline will be **R**everted to a prior level and its privileges. If at Level 1, students will need to complete 8 weeks at this level before entering Level 2.
- 2) For **2** weeks, disciplinary students will be given a **D**ouble-duty of household chores.
- 3) At the end of the 2 weeks, students will be considered for reinstated to former Level and its privileges.

Dismissal Policy

If a student breaks any of the following rules, a dismissal plan will be enacted:

- Any violation of substance abuse and/or a failed drug test screening
- Sexual misconduct or inappropriate relationships that violate program guidelines
- Repeated rule violations or discovery of blatant deception and/or dishonesty
-

Dismissal & Reinstatement

FOCUS believes in second chances, but we also value tough love. Sometimes both are possible. Sometimes the dismissal is what leads to a true *prodigal son's* surrender and return.

Every student dismissed will be required to leave the program for a minimum of 28 days. FOCUS will do all that is possible to help a student find another program or temporary housing. If a student would like to return to the Re-entry program after the 28-day hold, he must submit a written request for consideration and be interviewed by the Re-entry Team. Re-entry candidates will be informed of the team's decision either for or against reinstatement within 24-hours.

DAILY STUDENT QT GUIDE

SAMPLE GUIDE

Date: September 1, 2017

Passage: Matthew 26:69-75

First Reading: STICKS - What word or phrase from the scripture sticks out to you?

– “I don’t know the man”

Second Reading: STARS - How does this passage make you feel? Emotions stirred up in you?

** Sadness: I felt a heavy sadness at seeing all the courage of Peter drained during his adamant denial of Jesus as both his friend and Lord. That same sadness was eventually Peter’s sadness as he left the courtyard weeping bitterly.

Third Reading: SIGNS - What direction or invitation to obedience does God have for me today?

> “My child, draw so close to Me that any betrayal of Me would feel like self-betrayal. Help those who would say, ‘I don’t know the man’ catch a greater glimpse of Me.”

STICKS, STARS, & SIGNS

Try practicing the Sticks, Stars, and Signs method using your own passage and journal

Date:

Passage:

First Reading: STICKS - What word or phrase from the scripture sticks out to you?

Second Reading: STARS - How does this passage make you feel? Emotions stirred up in you?

Third Reading: SIGNS - What direction or invitation to obedience does God have for me today?