Text: Name:

*Directions: Please complete this worksheet for your assigned passage and bring 10 copies so that each member of your small group has the benefit of seeing your work (keep to 1 or 2 pages). You will be asked to walk the group through this worksheet, explaining how you believe we are to understand and apply the passage. If this worksheet is new to you, don’t worry and don’t feel intimidated. We’re all learning together, no perfect worksheets are allowed. Do your best and bring any questions.*

# #1: observation (discover what is there in this passage)

*Please answer one of the following questions:*

1. If you were asked to write a play of this passage, how many scenes would it have, and what would you label each scene on the manuscript?
2. If this passage was shown on television, where do you think the producer would place the big tension commercial break?

*Please answer one of the following questions:*

1. If you could go back in a time machine to when this passage occurred, what cultural differences do you think you would need to be informed about to increase your understanding of the passage (i.e. language usage, activities, places, cultural values, expected practices kept or veered from, things that go without saying)?
2. How do you think the original audience felt after hearing this passage (surprised, angered, excited, etc.)?

# #2a: interpretation – original context/audience (describe what this passage means)

*Please answer one of the following questions:*

1. What do you think is the key thought of this passage? What word(s) or verse(s) in this text capture it best?
2. If you made the truth of this passage into a skit, what point would you want the audience to leave with?

# #2b: interpretation – in light of the bigger story (describe how the passage fits into the Christ story)

*Please see the helps to assist you in answering this question*

1. How does the main idea of this passage (answer from #2a) direct us to the Christ and/or His work in redemption? Is the truth…

 a **C**ommand/biblical ethic only Christ can fulfill and empower

 a **H**ope in which only Christ can give real reason to trust and rest

 a **R**eoccurring theme that eventually climaxes in Christ

 an **I**ll that can only be righted or resolved in Christ

 a **S**ymbol illustrating an aspect of the Christ event

 a **T**imeline update of the redemption to be accomplished in Christ

Note: a passage’s main theme may fit into multiple categories. If this is the case, choose the one that seems most natural

# #3: application (discern how to respond)

*Please answer two of the following questions:*

1. What false beliefs (about God, man, the world, etc.) can this text combat?
2. How might you pray through this passage as you strive to persevere in, or alter, a situation in your life?
3. Why do you think God saw fit to include this passage in Scripture, both for then (original context) and for today (our context)? In other words, why do we need it as His people, and why might you need it as His child?