

Planning

"These steps of the godly are directed by the Lord. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will not fall, for the Lord holds them by the hand. Psalm 37:23, 24. The assurance that we know and are doing God's will is fundamental for living and ministering in dependence on God. The Day of Prayer and Vision experience prompts you to withdraw from the daily routine long enough to intentionally fellowship with the Lord. Planning for this time will make it more meaningful. Preparing your heart is just as important as preparing what to take along with you. The following questions will help you get ready:

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How can I prepare my spirit?

- ◆ Confession of sin
- ◆ Forgiveness of others
- ◆ Restoration of relationships

How can I prepare my soul?

- ? Look for evidence that God has been working in my life: (*Do a God-hunt from the 50-Day Adventure with God*)
- ? Where have I seen God in my everyday life (this last week, month, year)?
- ? Any obvious answers to prayer?
- ? Any unexpected evidence of God's care?
- ? Any help to do God's work in this world?
- ? Any unusual linkage or timing?
- ? Look at last year's progress:
- ? How did I do on my last year's growth plan?
- ? What topics for prayer is my ministry coach suggesting to me?
- ? How does my accountability partner describe my progress this year?
- ? Am I receiving the kind of mentoring I need to really develop in my ministry focus?
- ? In what ways do I see myself progressing since my last day away?

*Search me,
O God, and
know my
heart, I
pray...*

How can I prepare for my time away?

- ? What is the main purpose for this special retreat?
- ? How much time do I need for this Day of Prayer and Vision
- ? How is the Lord leading me to plan this retreat?
- ? What pressing issue(s) is driving me to want to get away at this time?
- ? What would be the best setting for my Day of Prayer and Vision?
- ? What should I take with me (see suggestions)?

Journaling these and other impressions from the Lord will put you in the right mindset for the Lord to speak. Just as you would not plan a special occasion with your family without making sure things are well-prepared, you need to take the time and energy to get ready for your time away with the Lord.