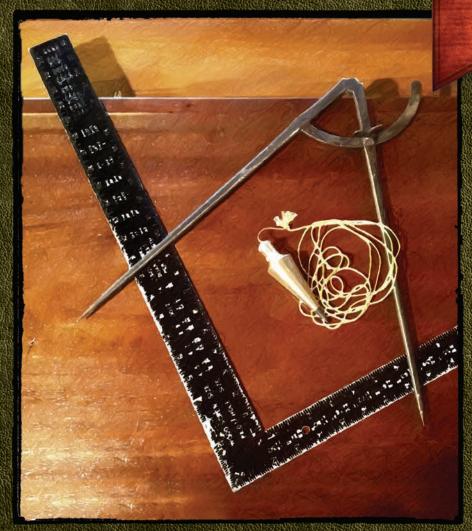




Abide in me, and I in you

John 15:4a





DEEPER DEVOTIONS

Enriching Your Time with God





DEEPER DEVOTIONS: Enriching Your Time with God

Edition 1.0

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SESSION ONE

Enter the Conversation

			E. S.	-cN
Bible reading an	d prayer are not _		_·	
They are			_·	
Read for		not for		
JOHN 16:1 "When It all truth mine and I Corint No one k We have who is fr freely give accept the are foolist because it mind of the second sec	He will bring a making it know that the though not received the om God, that we seen us The make things that continues to him, and they are spiritual Christ.	ruth, comes, <u>he</u> will guide you into g glory to me by taking from what is yn to you." 4, 16b (NIV) 4, 16b (NIV) 5 sof God except the Spirit of God. 5 spirit of the world but the Spirit e may understand what God has an without the Spirit does not me from the Spirit of God, for they ad he cannot understand them, 1lly discerned But we have the		
Before you open	your	, open your		

2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT) All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. Ambrose of Milan As in Paradise, the Lord God walks through the Holy Scriptures, seeking man.
Scriptures, seeking man.
• Choose
• Choose
3and enjoy the
• Reading the Bible is not a, it's an
Read the chapter
Read the chapter
• Read with
Read it as though you were
Martin Luther I study my Bible the way I gather apples. First, I shake the whole tree that the ripest might fall. Then I shake each limb, and when I have shaken each limb, I shake each branch and every twig. Then I look under every leaf.

	4. Pull off at a	ea
	Emphasize	
	Colossians 3:16 (niv) Let the word of Christ dwell in your richly.	
	• Put it	
	• Get to the of the verse by focusing on and underlining key phrases.	
	Example: 1 Corinthians 3:16 (NIV) Don't you know that <u>you</u> yourselves are <u>God's temple</u> and that <u>God's Spirit lives in you</u> ?	
	Summary: You are God's temple; God's Spirit lives in you.	
E	Take a of yourself.	
J.	·	
	 What do you in this passage? The Word of God is both a and a for your soul (Psalm 119:105; James 1:23-25). 	
6.	Send home a	
	• You are now prayer.	

resrre	7.	Move on to the next
	- - 8.	Read the chapter again —
		Hebrews 4:12 (NIV) For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.
	9.	Move on in this way until you
	10.	Revisit the
		After you have read all of the chapters, go back to the beginning of the book and read all of the underlined portions one more time. By following this process, you will have read the book four times before moving on to your next book in the Bible.
		The biggest barrier to your conversation with God:
	_	• Use you have,
		butwhile using it.



ROMANS 12 (NIV)

LIVING SACRIFICES

¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. ²Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

³For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. ⁴Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. ⁷If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; ⁸if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

LOVE

⁹Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹²Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. ¹⁸If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

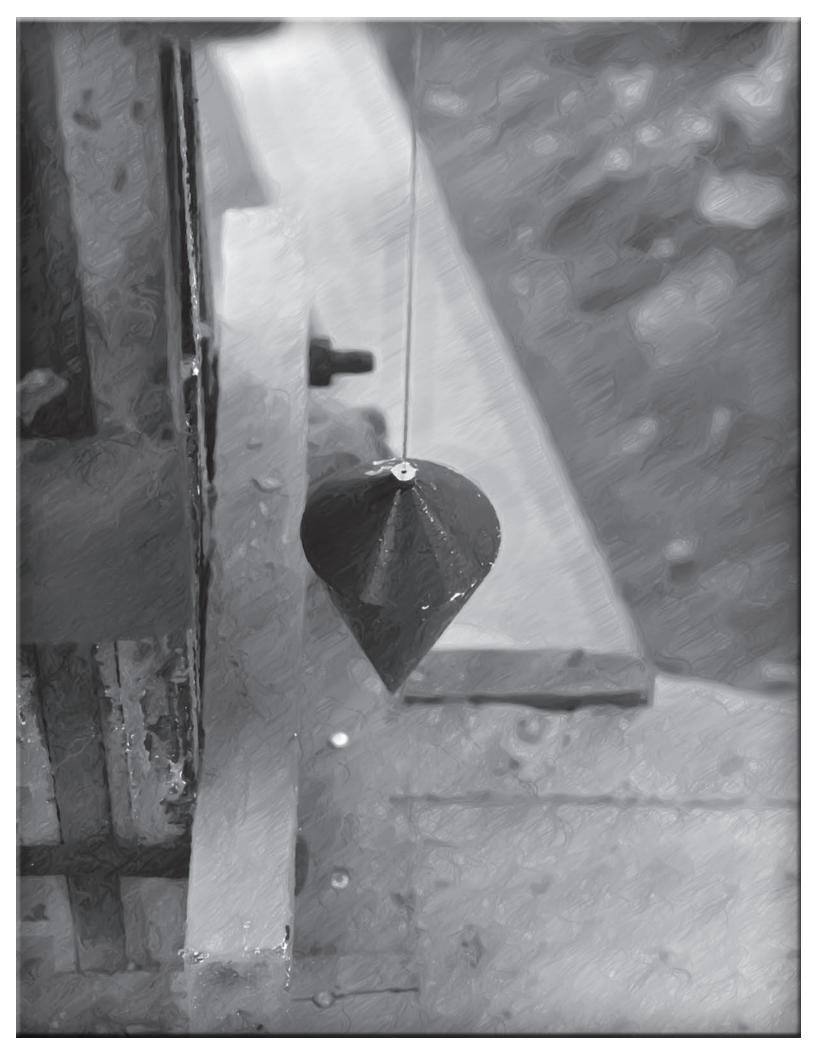
²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.





ger resp	MY CONVERSATION WITH GOD				
	Date:	Scripture passage:			
	You don't have t	deas to help you get started in devotional journaling. o address all of them. Feel free to choose one or two as or your conversation with God.			
		stopped: the paragraph, verse, phrase, or word that my attention			
	• What I s	saw: the truth, idea, or principle that became clear			
	• What I l	neard: what God said to me as I meditated on the text			
	What I tWhat I t	chought and felt: how the text engaged my mind and emotions will do			
	• How I re	esponded in prayer: what I said back to God			
	• What I a	am still trying to understand: questions about the passage			

	NOTES	



SESSION TWO

Thinking Our Confusion Out Loud



MATTHEW 6 (NIV/KJV)

GIVING TO THE NEEDY

"Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²"So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

PRAYER

⁵"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁷And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹"This, then, is how you should pray:

¹³And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.'

¹⁴"For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

FASTING

¹⁶"When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

[&]quot;'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

[&]quot;Give us today our daily bread.

¹²Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.



TREASURES IN HEAVEN

¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²²"The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. ²³But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

²⁴"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

Do Not Worry

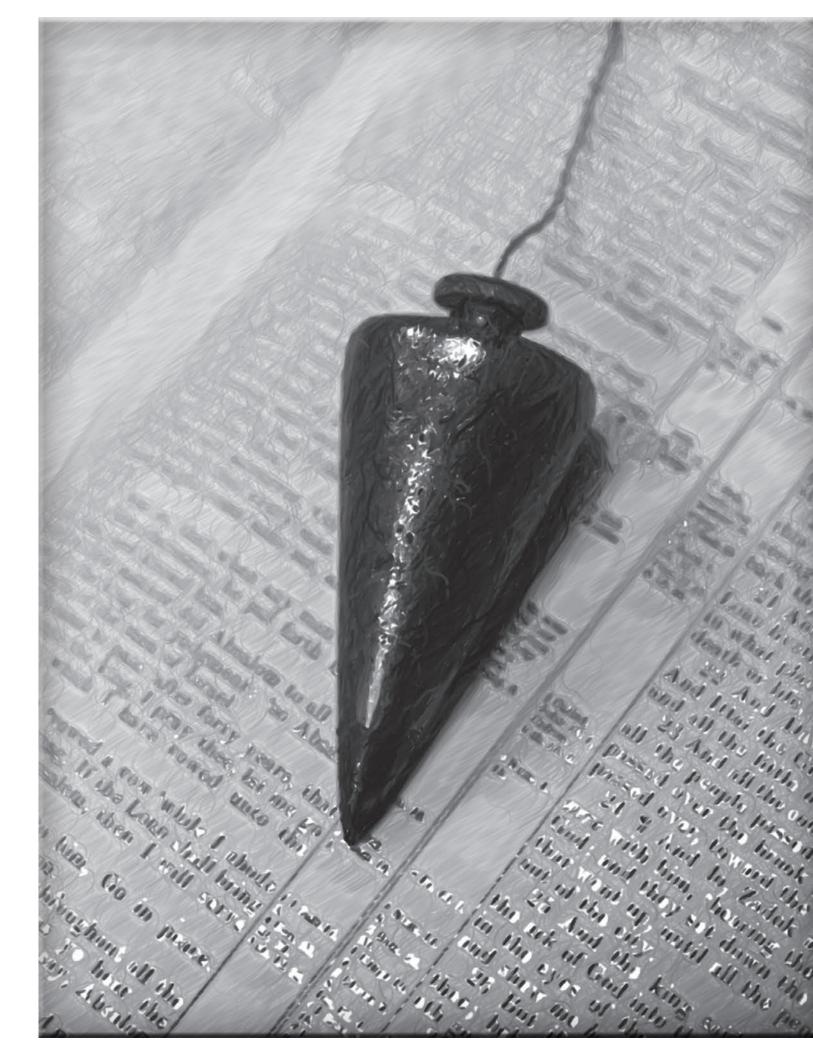
²⁵"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

²⁸"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰If that is how God clothes the grass of thefield, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³²For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."



fer resp	My Conversation with God				
	Date: Scripture passage:				
	Here are some ideas to help you get started in devotional journaling. You don't have to address all of them. Feel free to choose one or two as starting points for your conversation with God.				
	 Where I stopped: the paragraph, verse, phrase, or word that caught my attention 				
	• What I saw: the truth, idea, or principle that became clear				
	• What I heard: what God said to me as I meditated on the text				
	 What I thought and felt: how the text engaged my mind and emotions What I will do 				
	How I responded in prayer: what I said back to God				
	What I am still trying to understand: questions about the passage				
2 E					

	NOTES	



SESSION THREE

Patterns for Prayer

Understandi	NG THE LORD'S PRAYER		
in heaven, hall will be done on daily bread. ¹² A debtors. ¹³ And	how you should pray: 'Our Father which art lowed be thy name. ¹⁰ Thy kingdom come. Thy e earth, as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our lead us not into temptation, but deliver us thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the		
Our Father w	hich art in heaven, (v. 9)		
You are my	I am your		
I trust your	·		
Hallowed be t	hy name. (v. 9)		
Prayer begins with	·		
Thy kingdom	<i>come, (v. 10)</i>		
You are my	I am your		
I trust your	··		
Thy will be do	one (v. 10)		
You are my	I am your		
I trust your	·		
On earth as it	is in heaven. (v. 10)		
"As" can mean	or	_·	
I trust your	and your		

THE FRAMEWORK OF THE LORD'S PRAYER

	Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
	¹⁰ Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
	¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive we our debtors. ¹³ And lead we not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
	For thine is the kingdom, and the power
	and the glory, forever. Amen.
The ultimate aim of all our prayers is	

gen - car	PERSISTENCE IN PRAYER
	MATTHEW 7:7–8 (NIV) 7"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."
	• Ask with your
	JOHN 15:7 (NKJV) If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.
	Hebrews 4:16 (NLT) So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.
	• Seek with your
	• Search
	• Seek
	• Seek
	Search
	• Seek
	JEREMIAH 29:13–14a (NIV) 13"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 14I will be found by you," declares the LORD.
	Knock with your
á á	







JOB 1:20b-21 (NIV)

²⁰Job... got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship. ²¹and said:

"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart.

The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."

JOB 2:10b (NIV)

"Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?"

JOB 13:15 (NIV)

Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him; . . .

JOB 1:22 (NIV)

In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.



LUKE 22:42 (NIV)

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done"



LUKE 23:46b (NIV)

"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."



ROMANS 8:28b (NIV)

In all things God works for the good of those who love him.

Remember: What God wants most from you in prayer is ______



Appendix

40 Days to a More Powerful Prayer Life	 ~e3}
Here is a simple, seven-step method you can use to add power to your prayer life. It's based on The Lord's Prayer. If you follow these steps for forty days, your prayer life will be radically improved.	
MATTHEW 6:9 (NIV) "This, then, is how you should pray"	
1. Praise: begin by honoring God	
Matthew 6:9b (NKJV) "Our Father in heaven, <u>Hallowed</u> be Your name."	
Two Ways to Praise God	
• ADORATION—Praising God for who he is.	
As you read your Bible, make a list of God's character qualities that you discover and then review them when you pray. For example, he is loving (John 3:16), compassionate (Psalm 103:13), merciful (Luke 6:36), forgiving (1 John 1:9), committed to us (Isaiah 49:15). What other characteristics can you think of?	
God's character is the basis for our boldness in making requests in prayer. We ask with faith when we ask according to God's character. God answers the prayers that acknowledge who he is!	
Hebrews 4:16 (NLT) So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.	

• THANKSGIVING—Praising God for what he has PSALM 100:4 (NKJV) Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His Make a list of all that you are thankful for today and you pray:	to His courts name.
Now You Pray: Begin by offering praise to God for who done in your life. You might pray something like this to go "Heavenly Father, I worship you today. You are my God, n and Lord. Thank you for your faithfulness. Thank you for you for your grace and compassion." Now begin to thank him for specific things that come to n blessed you? How has he provided for you? How has he provided for you? How has he provided you already has already answered. Thank him for what you already has	et started: ny King, my Savior your mercy. Thank mind. How has he rotected you? Don't m for the prayers he

2. PURPOSE: COMMIT TO DO GOD'S WILL



MATTHEW 6:10 (NKJV)

"Your kingdom come. <u>Your will be done</u> on earth as it is in heaven."



ROMANS 12:1b (GNT)

Offer yourselves as a <u>living sacrifice</u> to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer.

Now You Pray: Pray a short prayer surrendering your will to God's will. Pray something like this:

"Lord, I believe you know what's best for me. So I want to do things your way. Please bring your rulership and wisdom into every area of my life today . . ."



gor resp	3. Provision: ASK GOD TO PROVIDE YOUR
	DAILY NEEDS
	MATTHEW 6:II (NKJV) "Give us this day our <u>daily</u> bread."
	What needs can you pray about? All of them! There is nothing too big—or too small—for God's attention. He cares about every detail of your life.
	JAMES 4:2b (NIV) You do not have, because you do not ask God.
	Matthew 6:32–33 (NLT) 32"Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. 33Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need."
	Now You Pray: Make a list of your specific needs today and tell the Lord about them.

4. PARDON: ASK GOD TO FORGIVE YOUR SINS

Ħ

MATTHEW 6:12 (NKJV)
"Forgive us our debts..."

Don't be afraid to tell the Lord about your sins. He already knows them. He just wants you to admit them to Him and to yourself. He promises to forgive you when you ask Him to.



1 JOHN 1:9 (NIV)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.



PSALM 32:5 (NLT)

Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the LORD." And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.

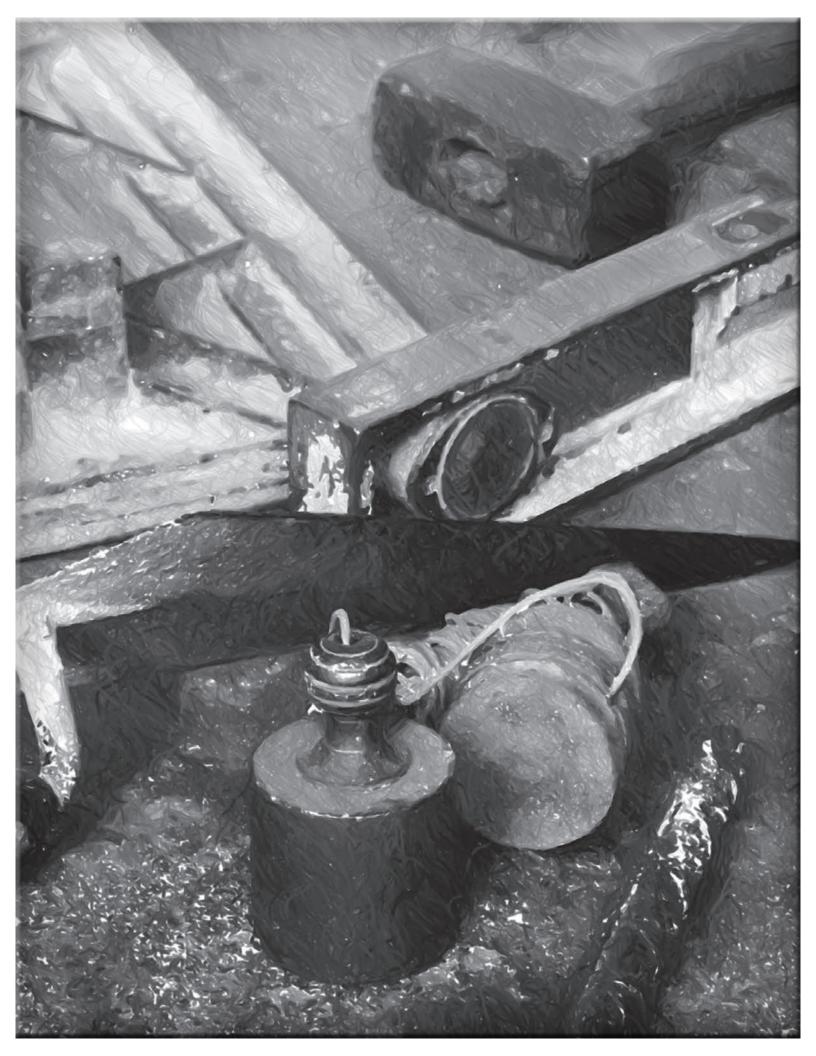
Now You Pray: Take a minute to talk to God about any unconfessed sin in your life. If you can't think of anything, ask him to show you if there is something you need to confess.

		 عو

6. Protection: Ask for spiritual protection **MATTHEW 6:13** (KJV) "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." Christians face a spiritual battle every day. Satan wants to defeat us through temptation and fear. By praying for protection, you will have the confidence to face every situation during the day. 1 JOHN 4:4b (GNT) The Spirit who is in you is more powerful than the spirit in those who belong to the world. Now You Pray: Ask the Lord to keep you safe from danger or harm. Ask him to give you inner strength to flee from temptation.

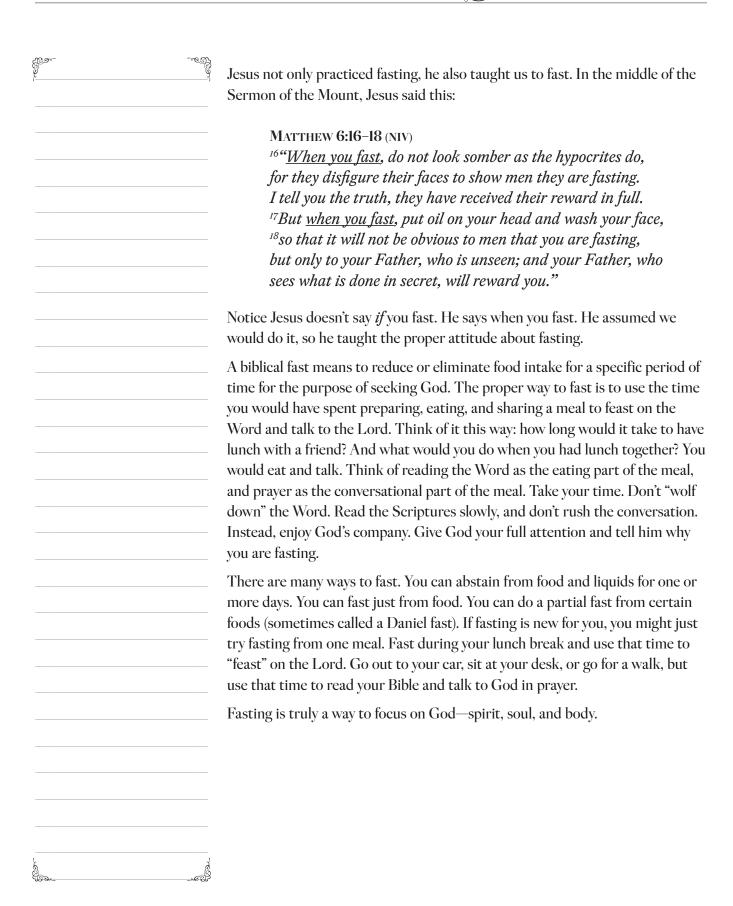
7. Praise: Finish the way you started—with worship
MATTHEW 6:13b (NKJV) "For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."
Now You Pray: Thank God for hearing your prayer. Praise him in advance for what he is going to do.

	NoteS	



What is Fasting and Why is it Important?

Lance Witt Fasting is not so much about food as it is about focus. It's not so much about saying no to the body as it is about saying yes to God.		
The Bible is clear that there is power in our prayers when they are coupled with fasting. Throughout history God's people have united in prayer and fasting to seek God's favor, deliverance, direction, or provision:		
• Moses fasted before he received the Ten Commandments (Exodus 34:28).		
• God's people fasted when they were under attack from their enemies (2 Chronicles 20:3).		
• David fasted in mourning and repentance (2 Samuel 12:16).		
• Ezra led the nation in prayer and fasting for protection and success in building the temple (Ezra 8:21).		
• God's people fasted when Esther went before the king to win their deliverance (Esther 4:16).		
• Daniel fasted and prayed for God's mercy on the nation (Daniel 9:3).		
 Nehemiah fasted before beginning the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem (Nehemiah 1:4). 		
• Jesus fasted during his victory over temptation (Matthew 4:2).		
• The early church fasted to receive direction in their decisions (Acts 13:2–3).		
• The Apostle Paul fasted when appointing leaders for the church (Acts 14:23).		
	6	, est

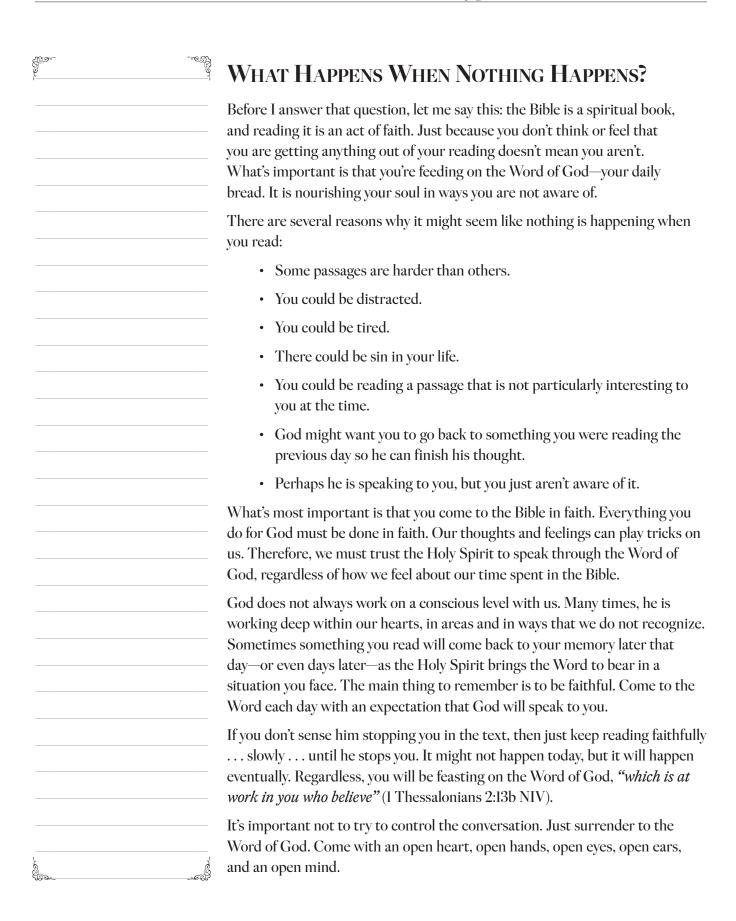


KEY QUESTIONS ABOUT READING THE BIBLE What's Unique About the Bible? The Bible is a living book that continues to speak and write itself on the hearts of God's redeemed people. It is God's divine, progressive, written revelation of himself to mankind. The central theme of the Bible is God's redemption of humanity. Its central figure is Jesus Christ. Its central message is the supremacy of a loving God. The Bible is inerrant, infallible, and perfectly trustworthy. It is the ultimate authority and standard for Christian living. The Bible is one book with one author—the Holy Spirit. Yet it is also a collection of sixty-six books, written over a period of 1,500 years by over forty different writers. There are thirty-nine books in the Old Testament and twenty-seven books in the New Testament. Neither testament can be fully understood apart from the other, as each one sheds light on the other. The New Testament is hidden in the Old: the Old Testament is revealed in the New. Why Do I Need to Read the Bible? The Bible is the starting place of your friendship with God. Reading the Bible is reading God's mind. It teaches us what he says and how he thinks. It reveals not just what he did, but how he does things. When we read his words, we get to know his character—not just becoming familiar with his book, but becoming friends with the Author himself. The more we get to know him, the more we become like him in thought, word, action, and character. Just as your body cannot survive without food, your soul cannot survive without the Bible. Pastor Rick Warren refers to the Bible as "soul food." The Bible describes itself as the water, milk, bread, meat, and honey of the spiritual life. It is spiritual food that causes spiritual health, resulting in spiritual growth. Without it, you will wither. Jesus said, "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4 NIV).

The Word of God is a lamp to our feet, a light to our path (Psalm II9:105), and a mirror to our soul (James I:23). The Bible is not so much a map as it is a compass. It keeps us on the proper heading. Just as the star led the wise men to Jesus, the Bible keeps us pointed in the right direction and lights our path toward Christlikeness.

GUIDELINES FOR REWARDING READING

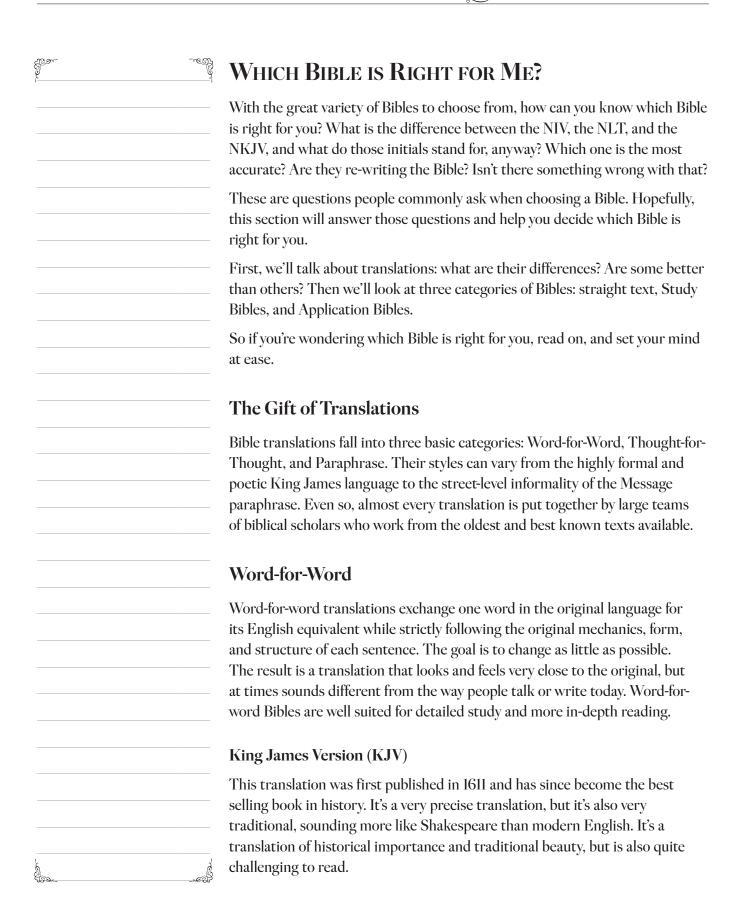
- 1. Don't obsess about finding something new. In fact, if you think you have seen something in the Bible that no one else has ever seen, then it's probably wrong. That's why it is so important for us to share our insights with other trusted men and women of God who can help us clarify our thinking. At the same time, try to read with fresh eyes and ears. Invite the Lord to speak to you in a new way.
- 2. Read slowly. This is an exploration, not a race.
- 3. **Read prayerfully.** Talk to God while you're reading. Ask him for wisdom and understanding.
- 4. **Read openly.** Read the Bible with an open heart and open ears. Approach the text with a predisposition to obey what God prompts you to do.
- 5. Don't worry about the things you don't understand. Move on to the things you do understand. Pray for God's wisdom. Ask him to open your eyes and ears and heart, and then keep reading slowly until something catches your attention. You may stop at something different each time.
- 6. Read at a leisurely pace all the way through the assigned passage. Then as time allows, go back to the beginning of the passage and read it again, slower this time. Pay attention to word choices, time elements, and verb tenses. Use a pen to underline key words that have special meaning to you. Then read the passage a third time, paying extra attention to the parts you underlined.
- 7. When something catches your attention—a paragraph, verse, phrase, or even a single word—stop and think about it. Try to find the essence of the message. Put it into your own words. What do you think God is trying to tell you in this place? What are you seeing? What are you hearing? What are your thoughts and feelings? How are you responding?
- 8. **Keep a journal.** Use the "My Conversation with God" format to help you record your thoughts. Be sure to date your entries. Then at a future date, you can look back at what you wrote and remember what God said to you at that time in your life.



TIPS FOR SMALL GROUP USE

If you are going through this material with your small group, follow this simple three-step process:

- 1. Select a book the entire group will read, and agree on a reading schedule. It can be a chapter a day or a chapter a week. It's up to your group to decide.
- 2. Use the "My Conversation with God" format each day in your private reading.
- 3. When your group comes together, ask each other these questions:
 - Where was your most meaningful stop in your reading this week?
 - What did you see in the text?
 - What did you hear God saying to you through it?
 - What did you think and feel?
 - How did you respond?
 - What questions do you still have?



New King James Version (NKJV) This translation was made in 1982 to update the language and spelling of the King James so that words like "thee," "thou," and "ye" are no longer used. The detail and precision of the King James were preserved, but the style may still be challenging for some to read. New American Standard Bible (NASB) This is one of the most accurate translations for detailed study. Colleges and seminaries frequently recommend this translation for their students. It's fairly challenging in some places because it holds so tightly to original texts. While many people use it for regular reading, most use it more often for study. Thought-for-Thought Thought-for-thought translations also work at the level of individual words, but preference is given to the basic thought or idea that the author is intending to communicate. The goal is to make it easier to read. Where a word-for-word translation can be choppy and challenging, the thought-for-thought translation slightly rephrases and better articulates the passage for readers. The result is an accurate translation that flows well, is easy to read, and sounds more modern and lively. These translations are the best choice for general reading and most studies. It is important to note that some thought-for-thought translations, like the New Living Translation, lean more towards communicating the general thought, while others like the New International Version stay closer to communicating the specific word. New International Version (NIV) The NIV is the best selling and most widely used Bible translation today. It's a good balanced translation because it's both precise like a word-for-word translation and easy to read like a thought-for-thought translation. For this reason, the NIV is popular for both general study and regular reading. New Living Translation (NLT) The NLT allows for more creativity in translating from the original text

than most other translations. Its modern language and style help to clarify the meaning of passages in a new way that's designed to catch the

reader's attention.

Bible text, theses versions will include a wide assortment of extra material such as: historical notes, definitions of words or terms, maps or diagrams, expert commentary, book introductions, or anything else that would be an aid

for understanding. Some versions also include suggestions for life application and ways to connect with the meaning on a practical level. Still others include	-re@
content that is geared specifically toward men, women, students, new believers, etc.	
Straight Text	
Straight text Bibles are simply the Bible text with little or no additional notes or commentary in the margins. Some readers find margin notes distract them from their flow of reading.	
Study Bibles	
Study Bibles, such as the NIV Study Bible, focus on what we can learn about God, his people, and the Scriptures themselves. They do this by delving into the text and revealing nuances of meaning implied by the original languages, or by adding notes that clarify and amplify the text itself.	
Application Bibles	
Application Bibles (also called Devotional Bibles) focus on the application of biblical concepts or precepts to our daily lives. Application notes use stories, analogies, and questions to shed new light on various passages of Scripture.	
Which Bible is Right for You?	
As the years go by, most people acquire a couple of different Bibles and use	
them for different purposes. You might have one you travel with, or one you use at small group, or one at your desk that you highlight, underline, and write	
in. But ultimately, the best Bible for you or a friend is going to be whichever translation will be read on a regular basis and whatever type has information	
that will be helpful and encouraging. Think about where and how the Bible is	
going to be read most. Look through a few different versions and compare a couple of passages. In the end, don't think about "Which Bible <i>should</i> I get?" but ask yourself "Which Bible do I really want to read?"	



	Here's a quick comparison of styles to choose from. The text is Matthew 5:13–16.
	King James Version (KJV) ¹³ "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. ¹⁴ Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."
	New King James Version (NKJV) 13"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. 14You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."
	New American Standard Bible (NASB) 13"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. 14 You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; 15 nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (NIV)

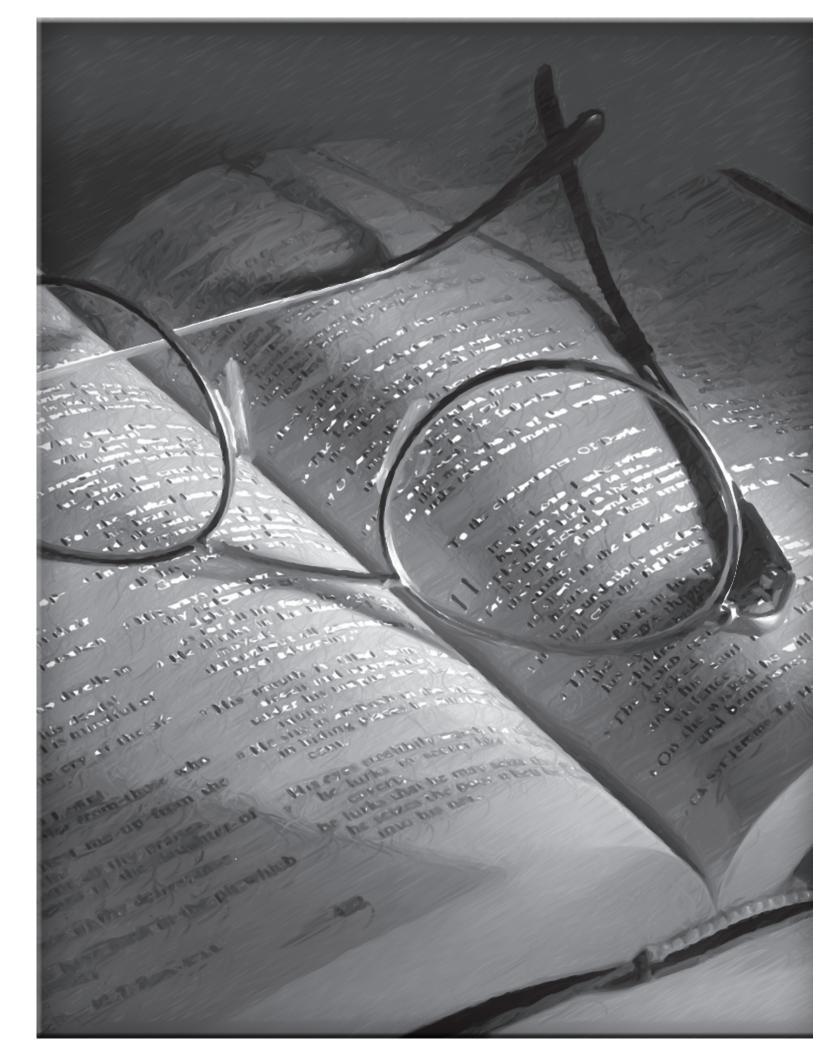
13"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. 14 You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

NEW LIVING TRANSLATION (NLT)

13"You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. 14You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. ¹⁵No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."

THE MESSAGE (MSG)

¹³"Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be saltseasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage. 14-16Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven."



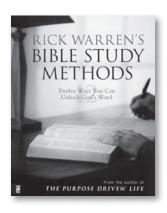
Resources for In-Depth Study

www.biblegateway.com

The searchable online Bible—Bible Gateway is a tool for quickly reading and researching scripture online, all in the language or translation of your choice!

YouVersion Bible App

This is the best and most popular Bible app available for all mobile devices. With dozens of translations to choose from and the ability to create reading and devotional plans for yourself, this app brings the Bible to your fingertips.



Rick Warren's Bible Study Methods

This easy-to-understand book shows you how to study the Bible Rick Warren's way. It gives you not just one, but twelve methods for exploring the riches of God's Word. *Rick Warren's Bible Study Methods* will help you develop a customized approach to studying, understanding, and applying the Bible.

The Way of a Worshiper, by Buddy Owens



A book about looking for God. The pursuit of God is the chase of a lifetime—in fact it's been going on since the day you were born. The question is, have you been the hunter or the prey? God is looking for worshipers. His invitation to friendship is open and genuine. Will you take him up on his offer? Will you give yourself to him in worship? Come walk *The Way of a Worshiper*, and discover the secret to friendship with God.

Saddleback Retreat Center

The Retreat Ministry at Rancho Capistrano is a beautiful, 170-acre oasis where you can go to pursue spiritual growth, rest, and renewal through affordable retreat programs.

Day and overnight retreats, workshops, and special events are available for individuals and groups with all-inclusive accommodations to create an enriched experience that has a lasting impact. Visit saddleback.com/retreats for upcoming retreats.

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Answer Key

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Session One: Enter the Conversation	£	9
Bible reading and prayer are not <u>two separate activities</u> . They are <u>two parts of a conversation</u> . Read for <u>depth</u> not for <u>distance</u> .		
1. Fill your <u>tank</u>		
JOHN 16:13, 14 (NIV) When the Spirit of truth comes, <u>he</u> will guide you into all truth he will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.		
1 Corinthians 2:11–12, 14, 16 (NIV) No one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned But we have the mind of Christ.		
Before you open your <u>Bible</u> , open your <u>heart</u> .		
2. Choose your <u>road</u>		
2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT) All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right.		
Ambrose of Milan "As in Paradise, the Lord God walks through the Holy Scriptures, seeking man."		
Choose <u>carefully</u>.Choose <u>prayfully</u>.		
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	 3. Slow down and enjoy the scenery Reading the Bible is not a race, it's an exploration. Read the chapter once. Read the chapter a second time. Read with your ears. Read it as though you were writing it. MARTIN LUTHER I study my Bible the way I gather apples. First, I shake the whole tree that the ripest might fall. Then I shake each limb, and when I have shaken each limb, I shake each branch and every twig. Then I look under every leaf.
	 4. Pull off at a scenic viewpoint • Emphasize different words.
	Colossians 3:16 (NIV) Let the word of Christ dwell in your richly."
	 Put it <u>in your own words</u> Get to the <u>essence</u> of the verse by focusing on and underlining key phrases.
	1 CORINTHIANS 3:16 (NIV) Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?
	Don't you know that <u>you</u> yourselves <u>are God's temple</u> and that <u>God's Spirit</u> <u>lives in you</u> ?
	Don't you know that <u>you</u> yourselves <u>are God's temple</u> and that <u>God's Spirit lives in you</u> ?
	Summary: You are God's temple; God's Spirit lives in you
	 5. Take a picture of yourself What do you look like in this passage? The Word of God is both a lamp and a mirror for the soul.
	6. Send home a postcardYou are now agreeing with God in prayer.
	7. Move on to the next <u>scenic viewpoint</u>
4	

0	Dond the chapter again a third time	F.	~e&
0.	Read the chapter again—a third time HEBREWS 4:12 (NIV) "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."		
9.	Move on in this way until you finish the book		
10.	 Revisit the conversation The biggest barrier to your conversation with God: time. Use whatever time you have, but take your time while using it. 		

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	Session Three: Patterns for Prayer
	Matthew 6:9–13 (KJV) 9" 'Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰ Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.'"
-	Our Father which art in heaven, (v. 9)
	You are my <u>Father</u> . I am your <u>child</u> . I trust your <u>love</u> .
	Hallowed be thy name.
	Prayer begins with <u>praise</u> .
	Thy kingdom come.
	You are my <u>King</u> . I am your <u>subject</u> . I trust your <u>authority</u> .
	Thy will be done
	You are my <u>Master</u> . I am your <u>servant</u> . I trust your <u>wisdom</u> .
	On earth as it is in heaven.
	"As" can mean "j <u>ust like</u> " or "j <u>ust when</u> ." I trust your <u>ways</u> and your <u>timing</u> .
	Give us this day our daily bread.
	You are my <u>Provider</u> . I am your <u>dependent</u> . I trust your <u>faithfulness</u> .
	Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
	You are my <u>Savior</u> . I am a <u>sinner</u> . I trust your <u>mercy</u> .

Lead us	not into temptation	
You are my <u>Gu</u> I trust your <u>dir</u>	<u>ide</u> . I am a <u>pilgrim</u> . <u>ection</u> .	
Deliver :	us from evil	
You are my <u>De</u> I trust you to <u>s</u>	liverer. I am a <u>captive</u> . et me free.	
The Framew	ork of the Lord's Prayer	
Praise: Surrender: Petition: Surrender:	⁹ Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰ Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread. ¹² And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power	
Praise:	and the glory, forever. Amen.	
The ultimate a	im of all our prayers is <u>the glory of God</u> .	
Persistence i	n Praver	
MATTH ⁷ "Ask an the door	EW 7:7-8 (NIV) and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and will be opened to you. *For everyone who asks receives; he ks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."	
• Ask with y	our <u>words</u> .	
If you at	5:7 (NKJV) bide in me, and my words abide in you, you will ask what you and it shall be done for you.	
So let us	ws 4:16 (NLT) s come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we wive His mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we most.	

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F	• Seek with your <u>heart</u> .
	 Search <u>the Scriptures</u>.
	 Seek <u>opportunities</u>.
	 Seek wise counsel.
	 Search <u>your heart</u>.
	 Seek <u>the Lord himself</u>.
	Jегеміан 29:13–14a (NIV)
	13"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.
	¹⁴ I will be found by you," declares the LORD.
	Knock with your <u>actions</u> .
	JOB 1:20b-21 (NIV)
	²⁰ Job fell to the ground in worship. ²¹ and said:
	"Naked I came from my mother's womb,
	and naked I will depart.
	The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away;
	may the name of the LORD be praised."
	JOB 2:10b (NIV)
	Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?"
	Jов 13:15 (NIV)
	Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him;
	JOB 1:22 (NIV)
	In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.
	Luke 22:42 (NIV)
	"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will but
	yours be done"
	Luke 23:46b (NIV)
	"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."
	ROMANS 8:28b (NIV)
	In all things God works for the good of those who love him.
	What God wants most from you in prayer is <u>you</u> .
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