

Time with God

that's how you grow

Start Here

Welcome to the family!

Take 5-10 minutes for each to share your story – how did you decide to follow Christ?

Take a moment to thank God and ask him to bless your time together.

Discuss

Think of people you are in a close relationship with (family members, friends, or colleagues):

- How did you get to know them?
- What can you do to get to know them even more?

We grow in relationship when we spend time with others: Talking, listening, working together, relaxing together, and many other ways.

Main Idea

A Christian grows closer to God and is strengthened in faith by spending time with him daily. There are three ways we can all do this: Reading the Bible, praying and connecting with the church.

Let's look at spending time with God in these three ways:

1. **We get to know God through reading the Bible.** The Bible is also called 'the Word of God'. That is because God speaks to us and reveals his love for us through the Bible. It shows us how we can know him and live in his love. As we read the Bible, our hearts and minds are changed by its truth. We get to know what God is like, and we understand his good plans and purposes for our lives.
2. **We also get to know God through prayer.** Prayer is simply talking with God. As we speak with him, he also speaks with us in different ways. He answers us, he encourages our hearts, he guides us and gives us strength.
3. **We get to know God through his church.** The church is the family of God, of which all believers are members. As we connect with the family of God and worship him together, we grow in faith and love.

Explore the Word

As you read the following verses from the Bible, notice the many blessings of reading the Word of God, praying and engaging with the church:

1. **Romans 15:4** Reading the Bible encourages us and gives us hope.

2. **Psalm 119:105** Reading the Bible gives us direction for our lives.
3. **Philippians 4:6–7** Prayer helps us give our anxieties to God and enjoy peace.
4. **Jeremiah 33:3** Prayer reveals the great things of God to us.
5. **Matthew 18:20** Fellowship with other believers helps us experience Jesus more.
6. **Hebrews 10:24-25** Fellowship with believers encourages us in love and faithfulness.

How many different benefits of reading the Bible, praying, and fellowshiping can you count in these verses alone?

The best thing you can do every day is to spend time with God. Let's see how you can start.

Practice Together Now

Here is a simple 3-step outline of how to begin spending time with God every day.

1. Start with prayer – Thank God for who he is and ask him to speak to you as you read.
2. Read a passage from the Bible.
3. Reflect on the passage that you read:
 - What does it tell me about God?
 - What does it mean for me today?

Practice this 3-step process together now using Psalm 1.

Finally, discuss how and where you might be able to join with other believers for worship and fellowship.

Review your Practice Daily

- One day this week, gather with other believers to worship God together.
- Decide to spend time with God every day through reading the Bible and prayer to help you grow closer in relationship with God.
- A good place to start is the Gospel of Luke and the Psalms. Read a chapter from each daily.
- Share any encouragements or questions with each other during the week.
- If possible, pray together daily for 5 minutes.