



Introduction

When you invited Jesus to come and live in your heart, you began a friendship that will last for eternity. Letting Jesus into your life started a relationship with God that will bring unending satisfaction and joy. But it is a relationship that needs to be developed.

Because He wants your friendship, God desires to communicate with you each and every day of your life. But like any good friend, He will not force His way into your daily schedule. It is up to you to make room in your daily affairs for communication with this new friend.

Friendship Modeled

When two people are friends, it is natural for them to want to spend time together. Consider how Jesus developed His friendship with the Father.

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

Mark 1:35

- Circle the time of Day when Jesus chose to visit with God.
- Frame the place where Jesus met with God.
- Underline the way Jesus talked to God
- *Prayer is a natural way to communicate with God. Jesus often withdrew to be alone with the Father.*

When Jesus was faced with a really big decision, he first spent time with the Father.

¹² *One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.* ¹³ *When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles:*

Luke 6:12-13

- Circle the time of day when Jesus chose to visit with God
- Frame the place where Jesus met with God.
- Underline the way Jesus talked with God.
- Underline the action Jesus took as a result of his night on the mountain.

Peter followed Jesus' example.

About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray.

Acts 10:9

- Circle the time of day when Peter chose to visit with God
- Frame the place where Peter met with God.
- Underline the way Peter talked with God.

Like a marriage...

A relationship with Jesus can be compared to a marriage relationship. The wedding ceremony is the start of a deep and intimate relationship. In a similar way inviting Jesus into your heart is the beginning of a deep and intimate friendship.

Spending time

It's impossible to develop a friendship without spending time together. The quality of the friendship is directly related to the effort the friends expend in their relationship.

Think about it

Why was the selection of His disciples important enough to warrant him spending an entire night in prayer?

What does Jesus' example imply about decisions you make?

One of the wonderful things about spending time with God is that He is always available. If you want to meet with Him in the morning, he'll be there. If you want to spend the night talking to Him, He'll stay up with you. If you want to meet with Him during the day, He'll be there.

Choosing a quiet place away from distractions helps to improve the quality of the time. Of course, God can meet you in the middle of a crowd or in a secluded retreat. He'll always show up if you will.

Letting God Talk to You

The way God has chosen to communicate with us is through the Bible. God could easily speak with us with words we could hear, but instead He has chosen to speak to us through the words he has spoken to others. After all, the Bible is collection of God's instructions to men.

¹⁶ *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,* ¹⁷ *so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

2 Timothy 3:16-17

- Underline the part God played in giving us the Scriptures (The Bible).
- Circle the four ways the scriptures are useful.
- Frame the activities for which the man of God is equipped.
- *Notice the personal involvement that God has with the scriptures. They are breathed out by Him.*

We learn more about the reliability of the Bible from Peter. In the statements following the verse place a checkmark (✓) in the box for all of those statements that are true.

²⁰ *Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation.* ²¹ *For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

2 Peter 1:20-21

- Scripture spoken by the prophets were a result of the prophet's interpretation of what he thought God was saying.
- Not one prophet in scripture gave his own interpretation of God's message.
- Prophecy recorded in scripture originated in the prophet's mind.
- Prophecy recorded in scripture had it's origin in God's mind.
- It wasn't the prophet speaking; rather it was God speaking through the prophet.
- The Holy Spirit was the influence God used to place His thoughts in the prophet's mind.

One way to start listening to God is to begin reading His Word on a regular consistent basis. As you read ask God to reveal more about Himself to you.



Memorize

What does He want to say?

While God is interested in the choices you make and the direction you take, He is not primarily concerned with giving you detailed directions. Rather, like any good friend, He wants you to know ...

- > what He is like
- > what makes Him happy
- > what makes Him angry
- > what pleases Him
- > His greatness
- > your need for Him
- > your weaknesses
- > your purpose
- > your favored position

All of these things are revealed in the Bible

See the "Tools" section of the **vDRC** website for some tips on reading the Bible.

Consider the following instructions given to the King of Israel:

¹⁸ *When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the priests, who are Levites.*
¹⁹ *It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the LORD his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees* ²⁰ *and not consider himself better than his brothers and turn from the law to the right or to the left. Then he and his descendants will reign a long time over his kingdom in Israel.*

Deuteronomy 17:18-20

- Circle the information the king is to copy.
- Underline how frequently the king is to refer to the copied material.
- Frame the reason the king is to spend time each day reading the material.
- Circle the result that God promises as a result of not turning from the law.

Though there would be great benefit in making your own personal copy of God's Word, you can enjoy the benefit of using the combined guidelines God has provided in the Bible. If you do not have a Bible of your own, you should make every effort to get one and start spending time each day reading it.

Talking To God

As you deepen your friendship with God, and grow in your understanding of Him, you will find that He is eager to hear your questions and to answer requests that you make of Him.

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

- *Approaching the throne of grace is another way of saying come to God in prayer.*
- Circle the attitude we are to have as we approach God in prayer.
- Underline the two responses we can expect to receive.

When we come to God in prayer, He promises to respond.

'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.'

Jeremiah 33:3

- *Calling to God is accomplished through prayer.*
- Circle the immediate response that God promises to those who call.
- Underline the things God will tell you.

Notice that God is interested in communication. He wants to reveal things to you that you do not know. God is not limited in how He will communicate these things to you. He may speak to you audibly. He may speak to you in dreams. He may speak to you as you read through the Bible. **But you can be certain that the truth God reveals will always be consistent with the truth contained in the Bible.** Letting God talk to you through the Bible is the primary way to hear God speak.

Why do you think God wants us to spend time every day reading His Word?

A Confident Approach

Coming before a King can be a scary thing. So when Almighty God invites us to come into His presence, it is natural for us to be fearful. But He tells us to come with confidence. What might characterize a confident approach?

Grace is getting something we do not deserve

Mercy is not getting something that we do deserve

God's Answers

God's timing is always perfect. He will answer your questions and your petitions. He will respond in one of three ways:

- > **Yes**, I'll do that
- > **No**, that is not the best thing for you, or
- > **Wait**, It is not the best time for that answer.

Spending Time Together

Spending time with God is not like spending time with another person. God does not have flesh and bones as we do. And, our conversations with Him are not like those you have with people.

Yet, because His Spirit lives within you, He is able to make Himself known.

Here are some tips you can use for developing a daily meeting with your Friend.

- Set up a regular, planned time, when you are awake and alert. Many people feel that first thing in the morning works best.
- Find a quiet place without distractions.
- Have a plan for your meeting.
- Bring a Bible, so that you can learn about your Friend.
- Bring a Notebook to record the things you learn.
- Bring a prayer list, to help you remember.
- Bring an expectant heart – God wants to meet with you.

Develop the habit of meeting with God. Make it a part of your day, just like you'd make an appointment to visit with a neighbor.

One Possible Plan

The following is one plan you might follow as you meet with God.

Start with Prayer

- Ask God to meet with you
- Ask Him to reveal something about Himself as you read
- Confess any known sin (1 John 1:9)
- Ask God to reveal any hidden faults (Psalm 139:23-24)

Read a Passage of Scripture

- Start with a book in the New Testament, preferably in the gospels. The Gospel of John is a great place to begin because it reveals the truth that Jesus is God.
- Read one chapter a day, or read until you find some new truth to think about.
- Write down question or things you do not understand.

End with Prayer

- Ask Him to reveal to you those things you did not understand
- Ask Him to guide you through your day.
- Thank God for meeting with you.

What is your Plan?

Starting Day	
Time of Day	
Place	
Materials Needed	

God will meet you whenever you are ready.

There is no formula to follow for meeting with God. These tips are passed along because they have worked for millions of believers just like you.

As you grow in your relationship, God may lead you to include some new things and discard other things. Remember, this is between you and Him. Ask Him to guide you as you meet together.

There are other tools that you can use to develop your Time with God. Check out the tools section of the **VDRC** website for more helps.