

Connecting with God

- I. Be jealous for the things God has for you and His intimate relationship with you
 - A. Review of the 3 “R’s”: Relationship with God, Relationship with community, Relationship with the world. Relationship with God is the foundation and the most important.
 - B. **You have to cultivate your own oil.** Can’t get it from anywhere or anyone else. Your relationship with God is dependent on what you chose to do or not do. God is active and dynamic, not static! He is constantly moving – don’t be stuck in the past. Don’t wait, 5, 10 years and realize, you have no relationship. You are still trying to relate to a God you met years ago and that is not sufficient for today! The “manna” or the mercies that He has for you TODAY, is new, it’s fresh – its what you need in the season you are in now. You can’t live on last year’s mercies: Lamentations 3.22-23. they are new every morning! (NLT)
 - ²² The faithful love of the LORD never ends!
His mercies never cease.
 - ²³ Great is his faithfulness;
his mercies begin afresh each morning.
 - C. It takes 3 weeks to break new habits or form new ones. Don’t give up. Get accountability, make a resolve that you want to go deep. Even with exercising, the emphasis is strengthening “the core”. When was the last time you strengthened you “spiritual core”? What if you didn’t get a hair cut for 2 years – it would be grown out and not looking the best it could – we need to do spiritual maintenance. The value is intimacy with God, you have to do something different! **“Insanity is doing the same thing expecting different results” Albert Einstein.**
 1. The reason for new music: God has a fresh anointing in every season, those worship leaders (like Kim Walker) who are intimately connected with Jesus, will take that fresh anointing/ revelation and put it to music. Because they live in His presence, they bring it to you! Guaranteed to have His presence show up (some anointed worship CD’s, my top 2 favorites: We will not be Shaken and Be Lifted High, by Bethel).
 2. **Sing the worship/ love song** back to Jesus. Sing truth, declare it until you get it into your heart, mind and spirit. We need to overcome the lies and the stuff we believe, by speaking/ declaring the truth over ourselves (Romans 12.2 – we get transformed by the renewing of our minds).

II. Practicals for a 30 minute facetime

- A. **When:** If you want to put God first in your life, put Him first in your schedule. Write it in your calendar or planner and block that time out.
- B. Set an alarm at night to tell you to turn off the computer and get ready for bed. Work backwards, if you need 8 hours of sleep and you want to get up at 6am, you need to be in bed by 10pm. Set an alarm at 9.30pm to signal you to stop what you’re doing, and that gives you a ½ hr to get ready for bed.
- C. Be intentional to schedule in face time for your kids.
 1. “chair time” for your kids and for yourself: Josh sitting in high chair watching a video/ DVD bible story, kids worship DVD . When he got older, he had a big brown rocking chair. Chair time started with 30 mins then advance to 45 mins, eventually to an hour. In a chair, he got to pick out a few toys, a few books (bible stories and kids bible that we’ve read from so he was familiar with the pics), worship music playing in the back ground.
 2. For us, we have to “schedule” the when or it won’t happen. Had to be disciplined, when

Josh did “chair time” after breakfast, I did my face time. I had to fight the urge to load the dish washer, washing machine, fold clothes – email!!!!

- D. Those who feel this is too legalistic, don’t be surprised or mystified 10 yrs from now, you are no deeper, or intimate with God. Having good intentions is not enough – need to put traction to it! Get accountability, have your friends, LG, ask you how it is going.

E. What

1. Prayer journal, Bible, worship music
2. Prayer lists: daily, weekly – helps to keep focus.
 - a) Personal/ family
 - b) Staff/ elders/ others that I’m discipling
 - c) ETS/ other ministries
 - d) Missionaries
 - e) Healings
 - f) Salvations!

F. Want/ desire

1. Focus is getting to know God: as Father or as Bridegroom King, or Savior

- G. **Where**: prayer closet, special area in the house, special chair. Be creative if space is limitation (car, closet, corner, outside). Bed is probably not a good idea if it’s hard for you to get out of bed.

III. 3 basic components

- A. **Worship** – He inhabits the praises of His people: He loves it and His presence comes!

(**optional**: pray in tongues for a few minutes – supernaturally connected, building up oneself 1 Corinthians 14.4)

1. Recommended worship playlist:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIVZa3OjRURbdQQ3Of0SAfciO8W7UwAC3>

- B. **Word** – prayer-meditate. Biblical meditation means 2 things:

1. **To inquire** – you are dialoguing with God, interactive reading: “God, what are saying to me? You want to partner with Him.
2. **To mutter or mumble**: to ponder over His nature and promises “God, I can’t believe you work all things out for good – help me to see it in this situation_____” or show me God how this is working out for good (Romans 8.28)

C. Prayer/ Intercession/ Response

1. Pray Scripture back
2. Journaling your prayer, love letter to God. “Dear Father, _____”
3. Active listening

- IV. **ENCOUNTERING GOD and WALKING IN OBEDIENCE**: God wants to encounter you on a daily basis: James 4.8 Come **near** to **God** and he will come **near** to you). I’m expecting to talk and dialogue with God –journal what you are hearing, seeing, sensing etc. If God asking you to do something, I encourage you be obedient! Faithful in the little, faithful in much. Write down action items:

- A. Change thought pattern (transforming the mind Romans 12.2)
- B. What is He asking me to do? (ie, trust God in a certain area, forgive someone, call, speak to a certain person, give something away, etc). Write down a time frame on when you want to get it

done by. Be intentional!

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Reading Scripture Sample Worksheet

From Soul Shepherding: Your Best Life In Jesus' Easy Yoke

Luke 10.38-42 (ESV)

38 As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. **39** Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what he taught. **40** But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, "Lord, doesn't it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me."

41 But the Lord said to her, "My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! **42** There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her."

Focus Questions for Prayer (With Space For Journaling)

1. 1st Reading: What is one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses on you? Meditate on that.

2. 2nd Reading. Enter into the Scripture passage. What do you feel? What specific situation in your life today relates? Write down a prayer or pray quietly.

3. 3rd Reading. What is God's personal invitation for you from the Scripture? You can write down what God may be saying to you and how can you respond in a practical way, or journal a prayer of thanks. Or rest quietly in God.