

UP: Connecting with God

Matthew 6:5-15

"The world is full of so-called prayer warriors who are prayer-ignorant. They're full of formulas and programs and advice, peddling techniques for getting what you want from God. Don't fall for that nonsense." Matthew 6:7-8a (MSG)

How to connect with God:

1. _____

"Be still, and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10 (NIV)

2. _____

"If you look for Me in earnest, you will find Me when you seek Me." Jeremiah 29:13 (NLT)

"When you come before God, don't turn it into a theatrical production. All these people making a regular show out of their prayers, hoping for stardom! Do you think God sits in a box seat? 'Here's what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace.'" Matthew 6:5-6 (MSG)

3. _____

"And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition as (unbelievers) do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words." Matthew 6:7 (NASB)

"With a God like this loving you, you can pray very simply. Like this: Our Father in heaven, Reveal who you are. Set the world right; Do what's best— as above, so below. Keep us alive with three square meals. Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others. Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil. You're in charge!" Matthew 6:9-13 (MSG)

4. _____

"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 4:15-16 (NIV)

Time Alone with God

Intro: Regardless of our walk of life, we all need times of quiet and calm in our Heavenly Father's presence to build our relationship with Him. How do we do that? Scheduling regular quiet times is a good way to start.

1. How would you describe a good quiet time / time alone with God? What do you do during your times alone with God?

Making the time...

2. Why can it be challenging for us to find time for personal devotions? Name some ways to find time in a busy schedule to be alone with God.

3. What can you do to make your times alone with God more meaningful?

Studying the Bible...

4. What hinders you from getting more out of reading the Bible / personal Bible Study?

5. Do you have a Bible reading plan? Why would one be helpful? Consider reading through the Bible in a measured way, over the course of three years. Interested? Go to www.moravian.org and click on "Daily Texts."

Talking with God...

6. What prevents you from praying consistently? Consider praying A.C.T.S. → Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication (requests), or pray through the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6) lingering on each phrase.

7. What other ideas do you have to make your prayer time more effective?

Doing it...

8. What is the best time of day for you to have your quiet time? What is the best place for you to have your quiet time?

9. What are some of the most common interruptions or distractions you are likely to face? What can you do to prevent them?