



MAKING YOUR

*Appointment
with God*

WHAT IS AN APPOINTMENT WITH GOD?

Having an appointment with God simply means that you set aside intentional time with God every day. There are a few elements that provide a healthy framework for your appointment with God:

- Intentional time and place
- Scripture reading
- Prayer

Intentional Time and Place

Mark 1:35 talks about when Jesus prayed. “And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.”

The time you set should be able to be set aside and uninterrupted, and the place you choose should be free of distractions and inspire you to connect with God. It is a good practice to just sit still for a few moments to settle yourself and to ask God to reveal Himself to you.

Scripture Reading

Psalms 1:2 says, “His delight is in the law of the Lord and on His law He meditates day and night.” The Bible is the main way God speaks to us and also helps us understand when the Holy Spirit is speaking to us.

Spend some time reading a verse or passage and then take time to meditate on it and consider what God is saying. Consider the following:

- Read God’s Word as your first and primary material.
- Less can be more.
- Repetition is very beneficial.
- Make observations on what is being described or taught.

Prayer

Prayer is when we talk to God, offering Him praise, making requests and expressing thanksgiving. Prayer is also listening to God, where He speaks to you from the scripture you read or about something else that you are seeking Him for. Colossians 4:2 says, “Continue steadfastly in prayer.”

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL AND MEANINGFUL APPOINTMENT WITH GOD

God is the Goal

We don't read and pray for the sake of reading and praying. These are intentional efforts to develop and deepen our relationship with God.

Be Consistent

If you can be consistent for three weeks, it will develop into a healthy habit.

Start Small

If you've never had an appointment with God before, start with just five minutes and slowly build up your time.

Choose Scripture

We have a couple different Bible reading plans available. You can also download a Bible app on your phone (such as The Bible App or Dwell) that will send you a daily verse and even read scripture to you.

Devotionals & Books

As your appointment with God grows, read a supplementary devotional that expounds on a Bible passage and provides insight. Our pastors can give you good recommendations.

SUGGESTED BIBLE READING MODELS

The Inductive Method

- Who: Who is speaking? Who is the intended audience? Who is present in the moment, etc.?
- What: What is this passage about? What problem is this addressing? What is happening? What is being said? What commands need to be obeyed, etc.?
- When: When is this event taking place?
- Where: Where is this event taking place? Where does it fit in the larger context of the book and Scripture?
- Why: Why is this message needed? Why is it relevant today?
- How: How does this change what I know about God and humanity? How do I apply this to my life so that I can live more faithfully as a follower of Jesus?

The SOAP Method

- Scripture: Reading a passage and writing out 1–2 specific verses by hand
- Observation: Asking questions of the text (who, what, where, when, how)
- Application: Considering how you should respond to what you've read
- Prayer: Thanking God for what he's shown you, and for His empowerment as you seek to live faithfully in light of what you've discovered in your time in the Word

The Identity to Action Method

- What does this passage say about God? (God's character)
- What does this passage say that God has done? (God's work)
- What does this passage say about who I am in light of God's work? (My identity in Christ)
- What should I do now? (My response based on God's Word and work in my life)

SUGGESTED PRAYER MODELS

The ACTS Model

- Adoration: Praising God for who He is
- Confession: Owning and repenting of our sins
- Thanksgiving: Thanking God for all He has done
- Supplication: Prayers of request for ourselves and others

The Five Finger Prayer Model

- Thumb: Pray for those closest to you.
- Pointer Finger: Pray for those who guide us—teachers, doctors, counselors, mentors.
- Middle Finger: Pray for those who lead us—government, civic, and business leaders, police and firefighters.
- Ring Finger: Pray for those who are weak—the poor, sick, disabled, infants, homeless, the powerless, the persecuted.
- Pinkie: Pray for yourself.

The PRAY Model

- Praise: Praise God for who He is and what He has done.
- Repent: Confess any sins, shortcomings, and mistakes that you have made.
- Ask: Ask Him to help you with any challenges you are facing, ask for provision and protection, pray for those around you who need God's help.
- Yield: Yield to God's will. Slow down, sit in silence for a few minutes, and listen to what God might have to say.

The Concentric Circles Model

- Pray for yourself.
- Pray for your family.
- Pray for your church.
- Pray for your community, your country, and the world.

Praying Scriptures

- Psalm 25
- Matthew 6:6-15
- Ephesians 3:14-21
- Philippians 4:4-9
- Colossians 1:9-14

BIBLE READING PLANS

Pastor Mark's Bible Reading Plan for Beginners

- Proverbs: Read the chapter corresponding to the day of the month. Do this the first thing each morning. Take note of one or two verses and review them during the day. Do this each month.
- James: Five times in a row
- 1 John: Five times in a row
- Luke: One time
- Ephesians: Five times in a row
- Acts: One time
- Philippians: Five times in a row
- Genesis: One time

Pastor Mark's Bible Reading Plan #2

- Proverbs: Read the chapter corresponding to the day of the month. Do this the first thing each morning. Take note of one or two verses and review them during the day. Do this each month.
- Colossians: Five times in a row
- 1 Peter: Five times in a row
- 2 Peter: Five times in a row
- Mark: One time
- Galatians: Five times in a row
- 1 Corinthians: One time
- 2 Corinthians: One time
- Ecclesiastes: One time
- Exodus: One time

