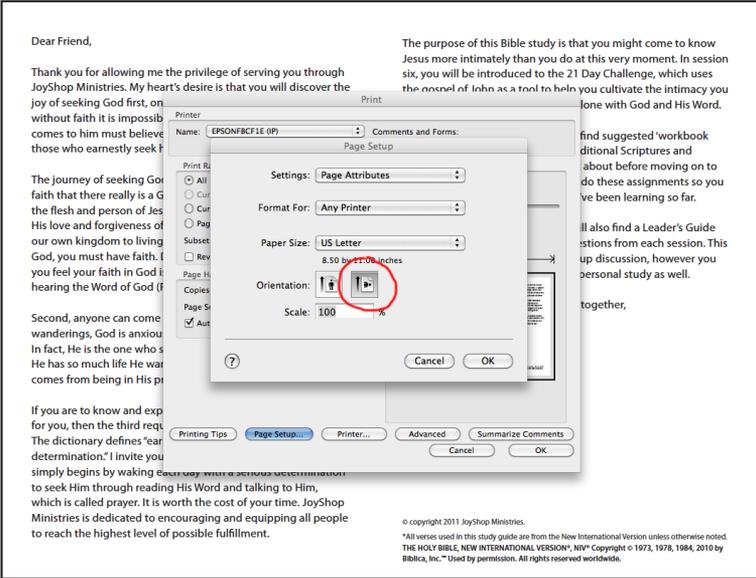
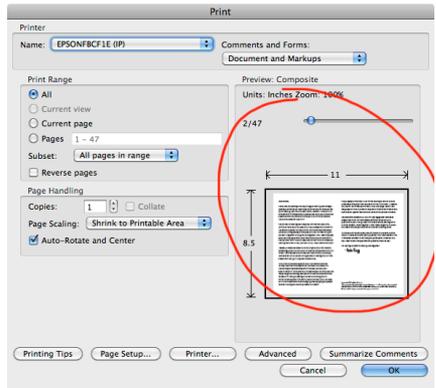


PRINTING INSTRUCTIONS

To print this workbook on 8.5x11 sized paper make sure you set the paper orientation to landscape (horizontal) under print settings --> page set-up. This will enable you to fit two workbook pages per 8.5x11 piece of paper.



When you make this setting, the first page (the workbook cover) should automatically set to print vertically (portrait) with the remainder of the pages printing horizontally.



Hit PRINT and you are good to go!



The joy of
SEEKING
GOD
FIRST

A Bible study that will fill your life
with renewed purpose and joy!

*
joyshop
MINISTRIES
www.joyshop.org

Dear Friend,

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving you through JoyShop Ministries. My heart's desire is that you will discover the joy of seeking God first, on a daily basis. *Hebrews 11:6* says, "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

The journey of seeking God requires, first, that we have faith - faith that there really is a God, faith that He came to this earth in the flesh and person of Jesus Christ, faith to believe and accept His love and forgiveness of sins, and faith to turn from living for our own kingdom to living for His kingdom. If you want to please God, you must have faith. Don't be afraid to ask for more faith if you feel your faith in God is weak. Remember that faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17). Read God's Word daily!

Second, anyone can come to Christ! In spite of our failures and wanderings, God is anxious for us to desire Him and come to Him. In fact, He is the one who stirred your heart to attend JoyShop. He has so much life He wants to give you, including the JOY that comes from being in His presence every day.

If you are to know and experience all the rewards God has for you, then the third requirement is to earnestly seek Him. The dictionary defines "earnest" as "intensely serious; with determination." I invite you to an incredible journey with God that simply begins by waking each day with a serious determination to seek Him through reading His Word and talking to Him, which is called prayer. It is worth the cost of your time. JoyShop Ministries is dedicated to encouraging and equipping all people to reach the highest level of possible fulfillment.

The purpose of this Bible study is that you might come to know Jesus more intimately than you do at this very moment. In session six, you will be introduced to the 21 Day Challenge, which uses the gospel of John as a tool to help you cultivate the intimacy you desire as you spend time each day alone with God and His Word.

Included after sessions 2-6, you will find suggested 'workbook assignments' that will have some additional Scriptures and questions to work through and think about before moving on to another session. I encourage you to do these assignments so you can reflect on and ponder what you've been learning so far.

At the back of the workbook, you will also find a Leader's Guide which includes some discussion questions from each session. This is intended as a tool to facilitate group discussion, however you may want to scan the questions for personal study as well.

I'm looking forward to Seeking God together,

- Anita Keagy

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"Never doubt in the dark what you learned in the light."
 -V. Raymond Edman

Acts 17:22-28 (New King James Version)

²⁶ "And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, ²⁷ so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; ²⁸ for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'"

Spiritual Applications to Ponder:

- I've never seen God but I can know He is **real**.
- God has a **file** for me and He wants me to have a relationship with Him.
- God really does love me.
- God wants to bless me with His **gifts**.
- The Lord will never force me to seek Him or read His **letters**.
- Have I grieved God's heart over my lack of **desire** to read His letters?
- Do I take for granted the amazing gift of being able to **hold** God's thoughts in my hand?
- Do I read God's Word because I want to **know** Him or out of a sense of duty?
- Am I adequately preparing myself for my future grand **reunion** with my heavenly Father?



- Prayerfully read the "Key verses to seeking God" on pages 11-15.
- Reread the Key Verses and underline repeated phrases.
- Highlight any verse that speaks the loudest to your heart.
- **Honestly reflect on the following questions:**
(Please know that this simple exercise is not about condemnation, but awareness.)
 1. What does it mean to seek God? The dictionary defines "seek" as "to look for intently, to want to find." How do you seek God?
 2. According to I Chronicles 16:10-11, how often are we to seek God's presence in our lives?
 3. Why do you think that God considers it "evil" when we do not have our hearts set on seeking Him? (II Chronicles 12:14)
 4. Is there a deep wound in your heart that needs to be healed? What steps can you take to begin the healing process outlined in II Chronicles 7:14?
 5. Note all verses that come from Psalms. God called David "a man after my own heart" (I Samuel 13:14) According to these verses, what kind of heart did God see in David?
- **Make a list of every promise that is yours IF you choose to seek Him then spend some time thanking God for these amazing promises that are yours to claim.**



Getting honest: What kind of "seeker" am I?

- **A pretend seeker** _____

These are people who say they want to seek God, but the extent of their seeking God consists of going to church once a week and saying a prayer or praying in emergency situations.

The pretend seeker honestly believes that he or she can make it through the day without any help or counsel from God and His Word. (Psalm 10:4)

- **A part-time seeker** _____

These are people who genuinely have a desire to find God. They attend church and conferences and read Spiritual books, but daily time in the Word is a matter of convenience. Every day they wake up with a busy schedule and tell God they will meet with Him later when they have time. Sadly, "later" never seems to come. The unspoken belief is that their daily responsibilities are more important than spending time cultivating a deeper relationship with God.

- **A persistent seeker** _____

King David gives us the best example of the persistent seeker in *Psalm 63:1*, "O God, you are my God, "earnestly" I seek you, my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water."

The Hebrew definition of earnestly is "to look early or diligently for," in other words, to rise in immediate pursuit of God. The persistent seeker rises daily with a desire for knowing God. This desire is stronger than one's desire to accomplish all the planned goals for that day. Spending time with God is this person's top priority, and he or she plans the rest of the day's responsibilities around this scheduled time alone with God.

What in my life (if anything) is keeping me from being a persistent seeker?

Where can I make room in my day to seek God? (Psalm 10:4)



Persistent seeking involves:

1. Devoting your heart, your soul, your all to seeking the Lord your God. (I Chronicles 22:19)
2. Choosing to seek God while we have the physical and mental capabilities because we have no guarantee of tomorrow. (Isaiah 55:6)
3. Perseverance in seeking hard after God until He comes and showers righteousness on me. (Hosea 10:12)
4. A commitment to seek God with all my heart, whether anyone else in my family chooses to seek Him or not. (Zechariah 8:21)
5. Never doubting this: If you seek Him, you will find Him!

Think of someone you can ask to be your accountability partner, to give you support and prayer as you set your heart on becoming a persistent God seeker.

Read Hosea 10:12

- What “unplowed ground” needs broken up in your life?
- Ask God to give you a persistent heart to Seeking Him.

“ _____ (insert your name) it is time to seek the Lord . . . ”

Key Verses to Seeking God



• Deuteronomy 4:29

“But if from there you **SEEK** the Lord your God, you will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

• I Chronicles 16:10-11

“Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who **SEEK** the Lord rejoice. Look to the Lord and his strength; **SEEK** his face always.”

• I Chronicles 22:19

“Now devote your heart and soul to **SEEKING** the Lord your God.”

• I Chronicles 28:9

“ . . . for the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you **SEEK** him, he will be found by you.”

• II Chronicles 7:14

“ . . . if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and **SEEK** my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

• II Chronicles 12:14

“He (King Rehoboam) did evil because he had not **SET** his heart on **SEEKING** the Lord.”

• II Chronicles 14:4

“He (King Asa) commanded Judah to **SEEK** the Lord, the God of their fathers, and to obey his laws and commands.”

• II Chronicles 15:2-3

“If you **SEEK** him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you. For a long time Israel was without the true God, without a priest to teach and without the law. But in their distress they turned to the Lord, the God of Israel, and **SOUGHT** him, and he was found by them.”



• ***II Chronicles 15:12-13***

“They entered into a covenant to **SEEK** the Lord . . . with all their heart and soul. All who would not **SEEK** the Lord . . . were to be put to death.”

• ***II Chronicles 15:15***

“They **SOUGHT** God eagerly, and he was found by them. So the Lord gave them rest on every side.”

• ***II Chronicles 19:3***

“There is, however some good in you (Jehu, the seer speaking to King Jehosaphat) for you have . . . **SET** your heart on **SEEKING** God.”

• ***II Chronicles 26:5***

“He (King Uzziah) **SOUGHT** God during the days of Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear of God. As long as he sought the Lord, God gave him success.”

• ***II Chronicles 30:18-19***

“But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, ‘May the Lord, who is good, pardon everyone who **SETS** his heart on **SEEKING** God.’”

• ***Psalm 9:10***

“Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who **SEEK** you.”

• ***Psalm 10:4***

“In his pride the wicked does not **SEEK** him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.”

• ***Psalm 14:2***

“The Lord looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who **SEEK** God.”



• ***Psalm 22:26***

“The poor will eat and be satisfied; they who **SEEK** the Lord will praise him - may your hearts live forever!”

• ***Psalm 24:5-6***

“ He will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from God his Savior. Such is the generation of those who **SEEK** him, who **SEEK** your face, O God of Jacob.”

• ***Psalm 27:4***

“One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I **SEEK**: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to **SEEK** him in his temple.”

• ***Psalm 27:8***

“My heart says of you, “**SEEK** his face!’ Your face, Lord, I will **SEEK**.”

• ***Psalm 34:10***

“The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who **SEEK** the Lord lack no good thing.”

• ***Psalm 40:16***

“But may all who **SEEK** you rejoice and be glad in you. May those who love your salvation always say, “The Lord be exalted!”

• ***Psalm 63:1***

“O God, you are my God, earnestly I **SEEK** you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water.”

• ***Psalm 70:4***

“But may all who **SEEK** you rejoice and be glad in you.”



• **Psalm 105:3-4**

“Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who **SEEK** the Lord rejoice. Look to the Lord and his strength; **SEEK** his face always.”

• **Psalm 119:2**

“Blessed are they who keep his statutes and **SEEK** him with all their heart.”

• **Psalm 119:10**

“I **SEEK** you with all my heart, do not let me stray from your commands.”

• **Psalm 119:58**

“I have **SOUGHT** your face with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise.”

• **Proverbs 8:17**

“I love those who love me, and those who **SEEK** me find me.”

• **Isaiah 45:19**

“I have not spoken in secret from somewhere in a land of darkness; I have not said to Jacob’s descendants, ‘**SEEK** me in vain, I, the Lord, speak the truth; I declare what is right.”

• **Isaiah 55:6**

“**SEEK** the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near.”

• **Jeremiah 29:11-13**

“For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’ Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will **SEEK** me and find me when you **SEEK** me with all your heart. I will be found by you.”



• **Hosea 5:15** (NKJV)

“I will return again to My place till they acknowledge their offense. Then they will **SEEK** My face; in their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.”

• **Hosea 10:12**

“Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to **SEEK** the Lord, until he comes and showers righteousness on you.”

• **Amos 5: 4 & 6**

“**SEEK** me and live...**SEEK** the Lord and live.”

• **Zephaniah 2:3**

“**SEEK** the Lord, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands.”

• **Zechariah 8:21**

“Let us go at once to entreat the Lord and **SEEK** the Lord Almighty. I myself am going.”

• **Matthew 6:33**

“But **SEEK FIRST** his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

• **Matthew 7:7**

“**SEEK** and you will find.”

• **Acts 17:27**

“God did this so that men would **SEEK** him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.”

• **Hebrews 11:6**

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who honestly **SEEK** him.”



1.) God created me so that I would _____ Him.

Acts 17:26-27 "From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us."

2.) God created built-in mechanisms to _____ me to seek Him.

• _____

Ecclesiastes 6:7 "All the labor of man is for his mouth, and yet the soul is not satisfied." (NKJV)

• _____

Hubert Van Zeller *"The soul hardly ever realizes it, but whether he is a believer or not, his _____ is really _____ for God."*

• _____

St. Augustine *"Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord; and our heart is restless until it rests in thee."*

• _____

Matthew 26:41 "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

• _____

• _____

3.) God has _____ the spiritual nourishment for my soul.

• Our Spiritual Air: _____



O. Hallesby “_____ is the breath of the soul...the organ by which we receive Christ into our parched and withered hearts.”

Revelation 3:20 “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.”

O. Hallesby “God has designed prayer as a means of intimate and joyous fellowship between God and ourselves.”

- Our Spiritual Bread: 1. _____.

Matthew 4:4 “Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

- Our Spiritual Bread: 2. _____.

John 6:35 “Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.”

- Our Spiritual Water: _____.

John 7:37-39 “On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.”

I Corinthians. 12:3 “...and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.”

Why do we starve ourselves of the life-giving air, bread, and water?

Key Principles to Seeking God: Part II



4.) _____ to seeking God.

- The _____ and the _____.

II Timothy 3:1-5 “But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure, rather than lovers of God — having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.”

We are, by nature, lovers of _____, lovers of _____, lovers of _____, instead of lovers of _____.

A.W. Tozer “Within the human heart _____ have taken over... God’s gifts now take the place of _____, and the whole course of nature is upset by the monstrous _____.”

- The _____.

John 10:10 “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full!”

The thief steals our life through:

- _____, (Hebrews 4:2)
- _____, (II Corinthians 11:3)
- _____, (II Corinthians 11:3)
- _____, (II Timothy 1:7)

we tend to have a lack of _____ for God and his Word. (Psalm 119:61)

Oswald Chambers “I hold in my hands the very _____ of God.”

5.) _____ must do the seeking!



Deuteronomy 4:29 "But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you look for him with all your soul."

J. Oswald Sanders "Each of us is as close to God as we _____ to be."

Don't depend on _____ to do the seeking for you.

6.) Seek God _____.

Matthew 6:33 "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

A kingdom is a realm where the king's _____ has full sway. What the king _____ is what happens.

The dictionary defines "First" as: Earliest in time or order, foremost in position, rank or importance.

Rick Warren "God's Word is the spiritual nourishment you **MUST** have to fulfill your purpose...to be a healthy disciple of Jesus Christ, feeding on God's Word **MUST BE YOUR FIRST PRIORITY.**"

7.) Seek Him for _____.

I Chronicles 22:19 " Now devote your heart and soul to seeking the Lord your God."

Psalms 107:20 "He sent his word and healed them; and delivered them from their destructions." (NASB)

8.) Seek Him in _____.

Hebrews 11:6 "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."



C.S. Lewis "The first step is to recognize that your _____ change... and if you don't keep God's truths (the Bible) before you _____ day your faith is going to waiver. And that is going to get you _____ where!"

Isaiah 7:9 "If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all."

"Go back to the Word of God and consider how thirsty the friends of God were for God Himself. The great difference between us and Abraham, David, and Paul is that they SOUGHT Him and FOUND Him and SEEKING Him still, found Him and sought Him — continually! We ACCEPT HIM and SEEK HIM NO MORE and that is the difference." - A.W. Tozer, The Pursuit of Man

Am I seeking God for myself or Himself?

Setting Your Heart on Seeking God



1 Peter 3:15 "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord . . ."

The dictionary defines "set" - "to be determined in advance; prepared for action."

1.) Pray for the _____.

Matthew 7:7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

2.) Make the _____ to meet with Him _____.

Joshua 24:15 "But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Settle the issue of _____.

3.) Decide the _____ and _____.

Proverbs 26:14 "As a door turns on its hinges, so a sluggard turns on his bed."

Bruce Wilkinson "Unless you get up early, you're unlikely to break through to a deeper _____ with God."

The _____ morning lie.

4.) Allow sufficient _____.

Mark 1:35 "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."

The no _____ lie.



F.B. Meyer *"The Bible seldom speaks, and certainly never its deepest, sweetest words, to those who always read in a hurry."*

Charles Stanley *"If you don't have time for prayer and Bible Study, Satan is winning the war."*

5.) Have a _____.

Joshua 1:8 "Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it."

6.) Keep a daily _____ record of what God is doing in your life.

Jeremiah 30:2 "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: "Write in a book all the words I have spoken to you."

Journaling brings a sense of _____ and _____ to our relationship with an invisible God.

7.) _____ what you have learned with someone.

Philemon 1:6 "I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ."

Hudson Taylor *"An _____, non-_____ -denying life will _____ be one of _____."*

My cost: _____.

What could I possibly do everyday that is more important than spending time with God?

The Natural Rewards of Seeking God



1.) You will _____ Him.

John 17:3 "Now this is eternal life: that they may **know** you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."

2.) You will be _____.

Romans 12:2a "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be **transformed** by the renewing of your mind."

3.) You will do His _____.

Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me "Lord, Lord" will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the **will** of my Father who is in heaven."

4.) You will be equipped for every _____.

II Timothy 3:16-17 "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every **good work**."

5.) You will be a _____ and a _____.

Acts 26:16b "I have appeared to you to appoint you as a **servant** and as a **witness** of what you have seen of me and what I will show you."

6.) You will have _____.

I Peter 1:8 "Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious **joy**."



Oswald Chambers "Every bit of knowledge that we have of _____ fills us with ineffable _____."

7.) You will be a _____ to others.

Genesis 12:2 "... and you will be a **blessing**."

8.) You will have _____ you need.

// Peter 1:3 "His divine power has given us **everything** we need for life and Godliness through our knowledge of Him who called us by his own glory and goodness."

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him. -I Corinthians 2:9

The 21 Day Challenge



1) **Request:** Ask God to teach you what He wants you to know.

2) **Read:** Read one chapter a day.

3) **Reflect:** Take time to reflect on what you read:

- Highlight what verses spoke to your heart and why?
- What does Jesus want me to know about Him, the Father, or the Holy Spirit?
- What does Jesus want me to do?
- Look for repeated words and phrases, then highlight them.
- What verse should I memorize?
- What verse totally **WOWS** me if I really **BELIEVE** it?
(WOW= wonder of wonders)

4) **Respond:**

Pray God's Word back to Him.

Obey what He's told you to do.

Worship Him with praise and thanksgiving.

Expect Him to answer your prayer.

Repent of any wrong attitude or action.

To order additional JoyShop pocket testaments visit www.ptl.org.

21 Day Challenge Worksheet



Key verse to read: John 15:1-17

Request (Ask God to teach you what He wants you to know about Him today):

Dear God...

Read

- **Read John 15: 1-17**
- Mark key repeated words or phrases.
- Highlight the verse(s) that spoke to you.

Reflect

- Jesus, what do You want me to know about You today?

- What do You want me to do?

Notes:

Respond

- Pray God's Word back to Him
- Obey what He's told you to do
- Worship Him with praise and thanksgiving
- Expect Him to answer your prayer
- Repent of any wrong attitude or action



On each journal spread you'll find:

1. A key verse for you to **record**.

2. A **request**:

Here you will have space to write a simple and short prayer to ask Jesus to teach you what He wants you to know about Him. There is power in asking for this specifically. Everyday ask Him to reveal Himself to you with the help of His Spirit.

3. A **reading** assignment:

Here you will find the assigned chapter reading for the day along with a reminder to note key repeated words in your reading such as: **believe, eternal life, miraculous signs, love** etc. There is also a reminder to highlight any verses that speak to you as you are reading.

4. A time of **reflection**:

Here you will find questions that will deepen your intimacy with Jesus, a promise that WOWS you (by this, we mean a verse that is a Wonder of Wonders!), and a place to summarize key thoughts.

5. A time of **response**:

This is the part where we draw **POWER** from God through prayer.

Pray God's Word back to Him.



With your pocket testament open to the passage you just finished, go verse by verse, reading it back to God and personalizing it for yourself and where you are spiritually at this time. Insert your name where appropriate!

Obey what He's told you to do.

Ask Him to help you to live as He lived. You cannot keep any of His commands on your own. Depend on Him to help you with whatever He has asked of you, no matter how difficult or impossible it seems.

Worship Him with praise and thanksgiving.

Take time to express your love, praise and thankfulness to Him.

Expectation!

Take God at His word. Expect Him to keep His promises no matter what difficult circumstances or crises are in your life.

Repent of any wrong attitude or action.

As you spend time with Jesus, His Holy Spirit will gently and lovingly teach, rebuke, correct and train you. (2 Timothy 3:16-17) Apart from sitting under His teachings, we are often unaware of the ways we have not reflected His loving and non-judgemental attitude. Instead of feeling shame, rejoice that He loves you enough to point out these areas to you so that He can help you to become more like him.

day 1

Key verse to read: John 1:12

Request {Ask God to teach you what He wants you to know about Him today}:

Dear God...

Read

- **Read John 1**
- Mark key repeated words or phrases.
- Highlight the verse(s) that spoke to you.

Reflect

- Jesus, what do You want me to know about You today?

- What do You want me to do?

- Is there a verse that totally **WOWS** me?

- Summarize key thoughts...

"Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who SEEK the Lord rejoice. Look to the Lord and his strength; SEEK his face always." -1 Chronicles 16:10-11



Notes:

Respond

- Pray God's Word back to Him**
- Obey what He's told you to do**
- Worship Him with praise and thanksgiving**
- Expect Him to answer your prayer**
- Repent of any wrong attitude or action**

day 2

Key verse to read: John 2:22

Request {Ask God to teach you what He wants you to know about Him today}:

Dear God...

Read

- **Read John 2**
- Mark key repeated words or phrases.
- Highlight the verse(s) that spoke to you.

Reflect

- Jesus, what do You want me to know about You today?

- What do You want me to do?

- Is there a verse that totally **WOWS** me?

- Summarize key thoughts...

"Now devote your heart and soul to SEEKING the Lord your God!"
- 1 Chronicles 22:19

Notes:

Respond
Pray God's Word back to Him
Obey what He's told you to do
Worship Him with praise and thanksgiving
Expect Him to answer your prayer
Repent of any wrong attitude or action

day 3

Key verse to read: John 3:16

Request {Ask God to teach you what He wants you to know about Him today}:

Dear God...

Read

- **Read John 3**
- Mark key repeated words or phrases.
- Highlight the verse(s) that spoke to you.

Reflect

- Jesus, what do You want me to know about You today?

- What do You want me to do?

- Is there a verse that totally **WOWS** me?

- Summarize key thoughts...

“...for the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you **SEEK** him, he will find you.”
- 1 Chronicles 28:19

Notes:

Respond

- Pray God's Word back to Him
- Obey what He's told you to do
- Worship Him with praise and thanksgiving
- Expect Him to answer your prayer
- Repent of any wrong attitude or action

day 4

Key verse to read: John 4:41

Request {Ask God to teach you what He wants you to know about Him today}:

Dear God...

Read

- **Read John 4**
- Mark key repeated words or phrases.
- Highlight the verse(s) that spoke to you.

Reflect

- Jesus, what do You want me to know about You today?

- What do You want me to do?

- Is there a verse that totally **WOWS** me?

- Summarize key thoughts...

"He (King Asa) commanded Judah to Seek the Lord, the God of their fathers, and to obey his laws and commands."
- II Chronicles 14:4

Notes:

Respond
Pray God's Word back to Him
Obey what He's told you to do
Worship Him with praise and thanksgiving
Expect Him to answer your prayer
Repent of any wrong attitude or action

day 5

Key verse to read: John 5:24

Request {Ask God to teach you what He wants you to know about Him today}:

Dear God...

Read

- **Read John 5**
- Mark key repeated words or phrases.
- Highlight the verse(s) that spoke to you.

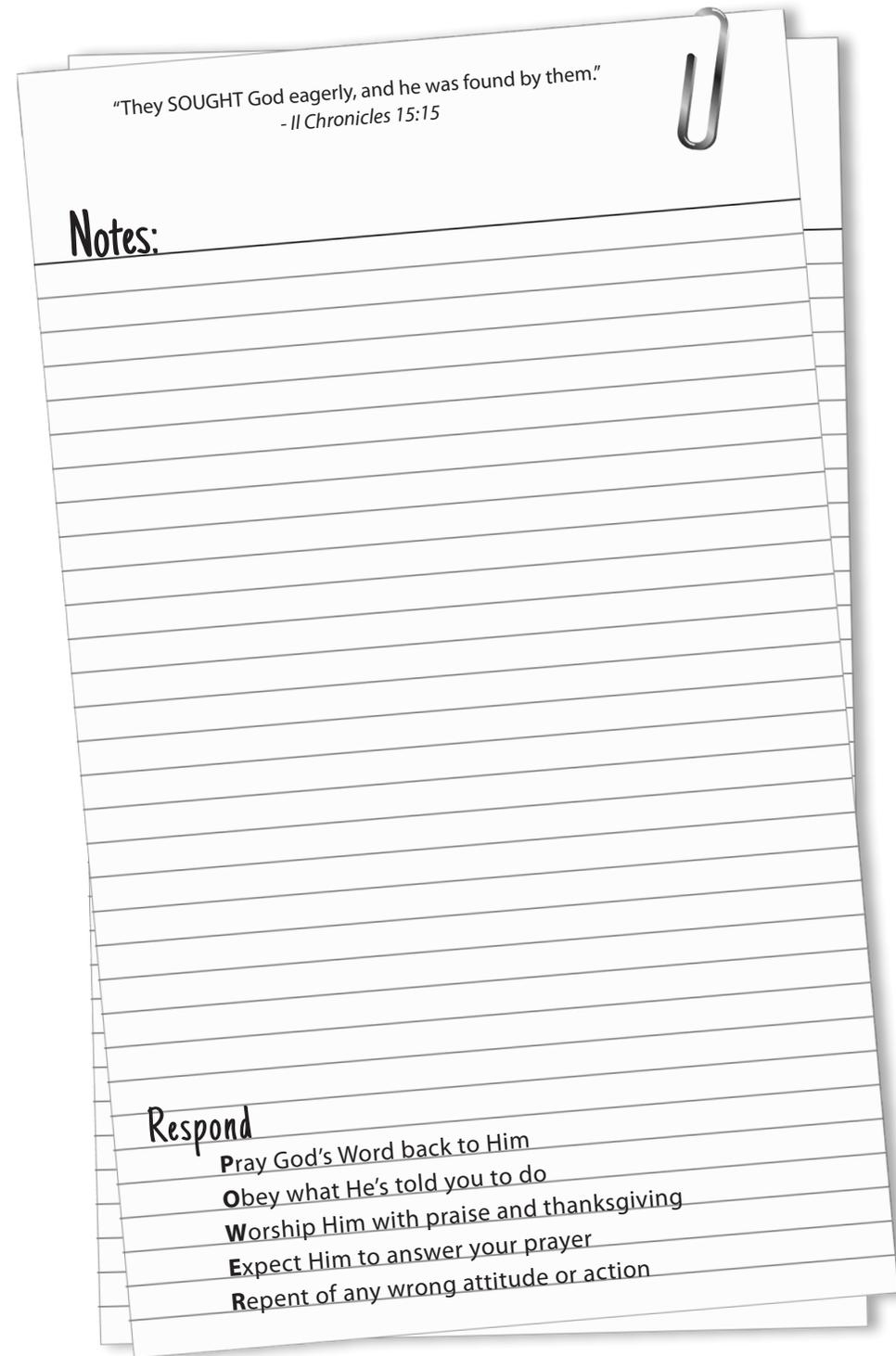
Reflect

- Jesus, what do You want me to know about You today?

- What do You want me to do?

- Is there a verse that totally **WOWS** me?

- Summarize key thoughts...



day 6

Key verse to read: John 6:28-29

Request {Ask God to teach you what He wants you to know about Him today}:

Dear God...

Read

- **Read John 6**
- Mark key repeated words or phrases.
- Highlight the verse(s) that spoke to you.

Reflect

- Jesus, what do You want me to know about You today?

- What do You want me to do?

- Is there a verse that totally **WOWS** me?

- Summarize key thoughts...

"There is however some good in you (Jehu, the seer speaking to King Jehosaphat) for you have SET your heart on SEEKING God."
- II Chronicles 19:3

Notes:

Respond
Pray God's Word back to Him
Obey what He's told you to do
Worship Him with praise and thanksgiving
Expect Him to answer your prayer
Repent of any wrong attitude or action

day 7

Key verse to read: John 7:38

Request {Ask God to teach you what He wants you to know about Him today}:

Dear God...

Read

- **Read John 7**
- Mark key repeated words or phrases.
- Highlight the verse(s) that spoke to you.

Reflect

- Jesus, what do You want me to know about You today?

- What do You want me to do?

- Is there a verse that totally **WOWS** me?

- Summarize key thoughts...

"Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who SEEK you."
- Psalm 9:10

Notes:

Respond

- Pray God's Word back to Him
- Obey what He's told you to do
- Worship Him with praise and thanksgiving
- Expect Him to answer your prayer
- Repent of any wrong attitude or action

day 8

Key verse to read: John 8:31-32

Request {Ask God to teach you what He wants you to know about Him today}:

Dear God...

Read

- **Read John 8**
- Mark key repeated words or phrases.
- Highlight the verse(s) that spoke to you.

Reflect

- Jesus, what do You want me to know about You today?

- What do You want me to do?

- Is there a verse that totally **WOWS** me?

- Summarize key thoughts...

"The Lord look sdown from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who Seek God!"
- Psalm 14:2

Notes:

Respond

- Pray God's Word back to Him
- Obey what He's told you to do
- Worship Him with praise and thanksgiving
- Expect Him to answer your prayer
- Repent of any wrong attitude or action

day 9

Key verse to read: John 9:35-38

Request {Ask God to teach you what He wants you to know about Him today}:

Dear God...

Read

- **Read John 9**
- Mark key repeated words or phrases.
- Highlight the verse(s) that spoke to you.

Reflect

- Jesus, what do You want me to know about You today?

- What do You want me to do?

- Is there a verse that totally **WOWS** me?

- Summarize key thoughts...

"He will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from God his saviour. Such is the generation of those who SEEK him, who SEEK your face, O God of Jacob"
- Psalm 24:5-6



Notes:

Respond

- Pray God's Word back to Him**
- Obey what He's told you to do**
- Worship Him with praise and thanksgiving**
- Expect Him to answer your prayer**
- Repent of any wrong attitude or action**

day 10

Key verse to read: John 10:37-38

Request {Ask God to teach you what He wants you to know about Him today}:

Dear God...

Read

- **Read John 10**
- Mark key repeated words or phrases.
- Highlight the verse(s) that spoke to you.

Reflect

- Jesus, what do You want me to know about You today?

- What do You want me to do?

- Is there a verse that totally **WOWS** me?

- Summarize key thoughts...

"One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I SEEK: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to SEEK him in his temple."
- Psalm 27:4



Notes:

Respond

- Pray God's Word back to Him**
- Obey what He's told you to do**
- Worship Him with praise and thanksgiving**
- Expect Him to answer your prayer**
- Repent of any wrong attitude or action**

day 12

Key verse to read: John 12:37

Request {Ask God to teach you what He wants you to know about Him today}:

Dear God...

Read

- **Read John 12**
- Mark key repeated words or phrases.
- Highlight the verse(s) that spoke to you.

Reflect

- Jesus, what do You want me to know about You today?

- What do You want me to do?

- Is there a verse that totally **WOWS** me?

- Summarize key thoughts...

"The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who SEEK the Lord lack no good thing."
- Psalm 34:10

Notes:

Respond

- Pray God's Word back to Him
- Obey what He's told you to do
- Worship Him with praise and thanksgiving
- Expect Him to answer your prayer
- Repent of any wrong attitude or action

day 14

Key verse to read: John 14:11

Request {Ask God to teach you what He wants you to know about Him today}:

Dear God...

Read

- **Read John 14**
- Mark key repeated words or phrases.
- Highlight the verse(s) that spoke to you.

Reflect

- Jesus, what do You want me to know about You today?

- What do You want me to do?

- Is there a verse that totally **WOWS** me?

- Summarize key thoughts...

"Blessed are they who keep his statutes and SEEK him with all their hearts."
- Psalm 119:2

Notes:

Respond

- Pray God's Word back to Him
- Obey what He's told you to do
- Worship Him with praise and thanksgiving
- Expect Him to answer your prayer
- Repent of any wrong attitude or action

day 15

Key verse to read: John 15:26

Request {Ask God to teach you what He wants you to know about Him today}:

Dear God...

Read

- **Read John 15**
- Mark key repeated words or phrases.
- Highlight the verse(s) that spoke to you.

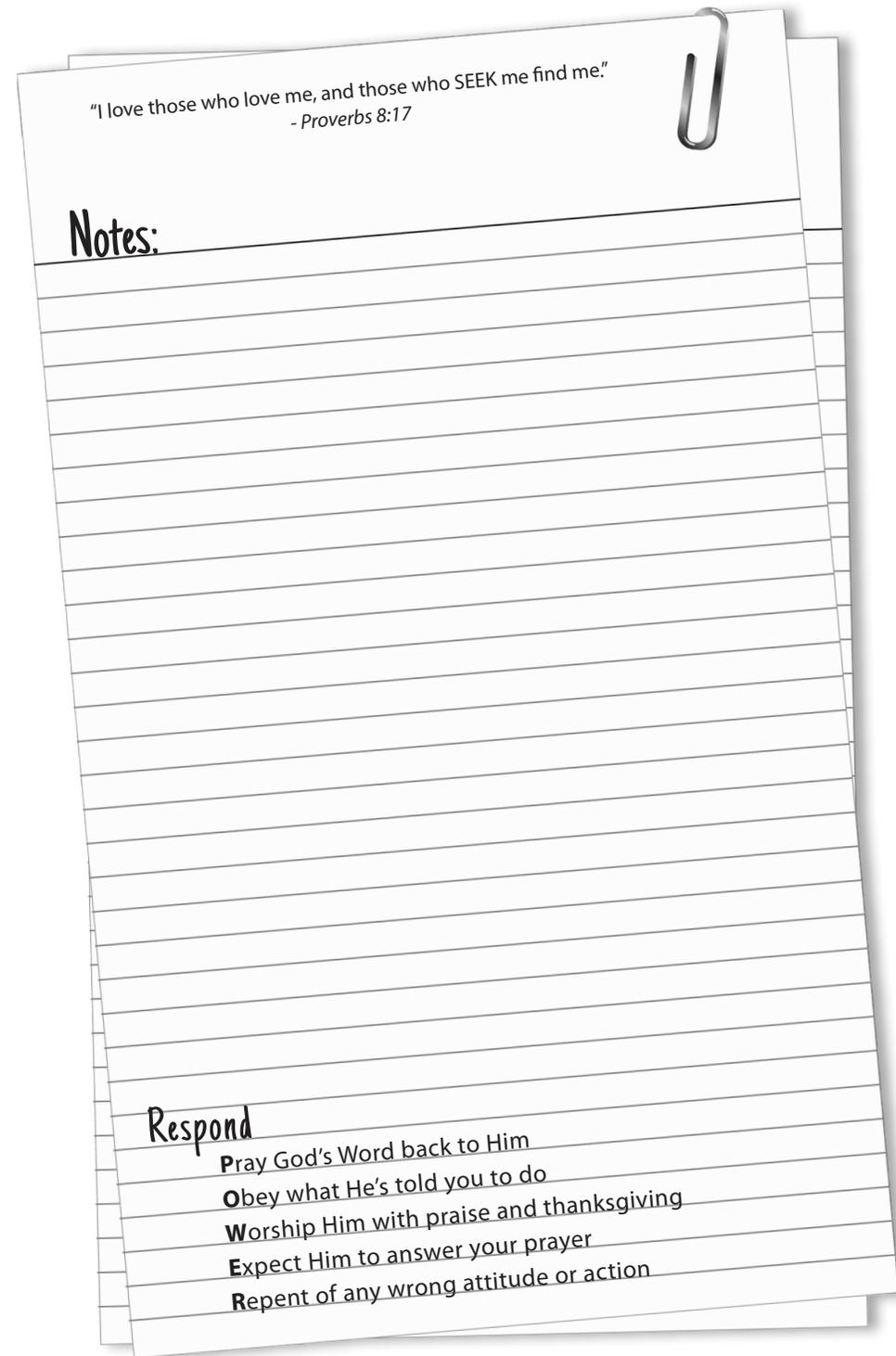
Reflect

- Jesus, what do You want me to know about You today?

- What do You want me to do?

- Is there a verse that totally **WOWS** me?

- Summarize key thoughts...



day 16

Key verse to read: John 16:27

Request {Ask God to teach you what He wants you to know about Him today}:

Dear God...

Read

- **Read John 16**
- Mark key repeated words or phrases.
- Highlight the verse(s) that spoke to you.

Reflect

- Jesus, what do You want me to know about You today?

- What do You want me to do?

- Is there a verse that totally **WOWS** me?

- Summarize key thoughts...

"SEEK the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near."
- Isaiah 55:6



Notes:

Respond

- Pray God's Word back to Him**
- Obey what He's told you to do**
- Worship Him with praise and thanksgiving**
- Expect Him to answer your prayer**
- Repent of any wrong attitude or action**

day 17

Key verse to read: John 17:20

Request {Ask God to teach you what He wants you to know about Him today}:

Dear God...

Read

- **Read John 17**
- Mark key repeated words or phrases.
- Highlight the verse(s) that spoke to you.

Reflect

- Jesus, what do You want me to know about You today?

- What do You want me to do?

- Is there a verse that totally **WOWS** me?

- Summarize key thoughts...

"SEEK me and live. SEEK the Lord and live."
- Amos 5: 4 and 6

Notes:

Respond

- Pray God's Word back to Him
- Obey what He's told you to do
- Worship Him with praise and thanksgiving
- Expect Him to answer your prayer
- Repent of any wrong attitude or action

day 19

Key verse to read: John 19:35

Request {Ask God to teach you what He wants you to know about Him today}:

Dear God...

Read

- **Read John 19**
- Mark key repeated words or phrases.
- Highlight the verse(s) that spoke to you.

Reflect

- Jesus, what do You want me to know about You today?

- What do You want me to do?

- Is there a verse that totally **WOWS** me?

- Summarize key thoughts...

"But **SEEK FIRST** his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well"
- Matthew 6:33

Notes:

Respond

- Pray God's Word back to Him
- Obey what He's told you to do
- Worship Him with praise and thanksgiving
- Expect Him to answer your prayer
- Repent of any wrong attitude or action

day 20

Key verse to read: John 20:31

Request {Ask God to teach you what He wants you to know about Him today}:

Dear God...

Read

- **Read John 20**
- Mark key repeated words or phrases.
- Highlight the verse(s) that spoke to you.

Reflect

- Jesus, what do You want me to know about You today?

- What do You want me to do?

- Is there a verse that totally **WOWS** me?

- Summarize key thoughts...

"SEEK and you will find."
- Matthew 7:7

Notes:

Respond
Pray God's Word back to Him
Obey what He's told you to do
Worship Him with praise and thanksgiving
Expect Him to answer your prayer
Repent of any wrong attitude or action

day 21

Key verse to read: John 21:24

Request {Ask God to teach you what He wants you to know about Him today}:

Dear God...

Read

- **Read John 21**
- Mark key repeated words or phrases.
- Highlight the verse(s) that spoke to you.

Reflect

- Jesus, what do You want me to know about You today?

- What do You want me to do?

- Is there a verse that totally **WOWS** me?

- Summarize key thoughts...

"God did this so that men would SEEK him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each of us."
- Acts 17:27



Notes:

Respond

- Pray God's Word back to Him**
- Obey what He's told you to do**
- Worship Him with praise and thanksgiving**
- Expect Him to answer your prayer**
- Repent of any wrong attitude or action**



Here are some of my favorite quotes from people whom I highly respect and who have inspired me to stay on this journey of seeking Him first. Don't just take my words; listen to what others know to be true.

John Wesley: (said to a “withering preacher”)

- *“O begin! Fix some part of every day for private exercise. You may acquire the taste which you have not. What is tedious at first will afterward be pleasant. Whether you like it or not, read and pray daily. It is for your life; there is no other way: else you will be triferl all your days . . . you have to be at the spout where the glory comes out.”*

John Bunyan:

- *“Read and read again, and do not despair of help to understand the will and mind of God though you think they are fast locked up from you. Neither trouble your heads though you have not commentaries and exposition. Pray and read, read and pray; for a little from God is better than a great deal from men . . . there is nothing that so abides with us as what we receive from God; and the reason why so many Christians in this day are at such a loss as to some things is that they are contented with what comes from men’s mouths without searching and kneeling before God to know of Him the truth of things.”*

D.L. Moody:

- *“If you were to spend a month feeding on the precious promises of God, you would not be going about with your heads hanging down like bulrushes, complaining how poor you are; but you would lift up your heads with confidence, and proclaim the riches of his grace because you could not help it.”*

Oswald Chambers:

- *“We are apt to pay more attention to our newspapers than to God’s Book, and spiritual leakage begins because we do not take the effort to lift up our eyes to God.”*
- *“Five minutes with God and his word is worth more than all the rest of the day.”*

Charles Spurgeon:

- *“Do I feed on the Word? There would be no food in the word unless the Lord made it food for my soul and helped me to feed on it.”*

Jeanne Guyon:

- *“The scriptures are written in a natural and simple way, but they express deep truths. These truths adapt themselves to your spiritual level. The Word of God cuts to your very center. It has a penetrating quality, and its efficiency accomplishes all that it sets out to do. No words of man can produce this effect unless, of course, they come through people that are pure channels of the Word of God. It is God’s pleasure to express Himself and reproduce Himself in the person that has abandoned himself.”*

George Mueller:

- *“The primary business I must attend to every day is to fellowship with the Lord. The first concern is not how much I might serve the Lord, but how my inner man might be nourished. I may share the truth with the unconverted; I may try to encourage believers; I may relieve the distressed; or I may, in other ways, seek to behave as a child of God; yet not being nourished and strengthened in my inner man day by day, may result in this work being done in a wrong spirit. The most important thing I had to do was to read the Word of God and to meditate on it. Thus my heart might be comforted, encouraged, warned, reproved, and instructed . . . as my heart is nourished by the truth of the Word, I am brought into true fellowship with God . . . I look upon it as a lost day when I have not had a good time over the Word of God.”*
- *“The first three years after conversion I neglected the Word of God. Since I began to search it diligently the blessing has been wonderful . . . I believe that the one chief reason that I have been kept in happy useful service is that I have been a lover of Holy Scripture. It has been my habit to read the Bible through four times a year; in a prayerful spirit, to apply it to my heart, and practice what I find there. I have been for sixty nine years a happy man; happy, happy, happy.”*

H. H. Halley:

- *“EVERY CHRISTIAN ought to be a Bible Reader. It is the One Habit, which, if done in the right spirit, more than any other one habit, will make a Christian what he ought to be in every way. If any church could get its people as a whole to be devoted Readers of God’s Word, it would revolutionize the church. If the churches of any community, as a whole, could get their people, as a whole, to be Regular Readers of the Bible, it would Not Only Revolutionize the churches, but it would Purge and Purify the Community as nothing else could do.”*

Andrew Murray:

- *“How the Church of Christ and the spiritual life of thousands of its members suffers from the root disease! It is none other than the neglect of secret communion with God. It is the lack of private prayer, the neglect of maintaining our hidden spiritual life “rooted in Christ,” “rooted and grounded in love,” that explains the weakness of the Christian life. No wonder we can’t resist the world. No wonder we fail to bring forth fruit abundantly. Nothing can change this except restoring the quiet time with the Lord in the life of the believer. We must give it the place which Christ meant it to have. As Christians, we must learn not to trust our own efforts but daily sink our roots deeper into Christ and to make the secret personal fellowship with God our priority. Then true godliness will flourish. If the root be holy, so are the branches. If the morning hour is kept holy for the Lord, the whole day with its duties will be, too. Healthy roots grow healthy branches.”*

Hudson Taylor:

- *“When asked, “How is it that you can address so many meetings?” he said to us: “Every morning I feed upon the Word of God, then I pass on through the day messages that have first helped me in my own soul.”*
- *“Do not have your concert first, then tune your instrument afterwards. Begin the day with The Word of God and prayer and get first of all in harmony with Him.”*

F. B. Meyer:

- *“The whole of Christian living, in my opinion, hinges on the way in which people read the Bible. All sermons, all Bible classes, all religious magazines and books, can never take the place of our own quiet study of God’s precious Word. We may measure our growth in grace by the growth of our love for private Bible study. And we may be sure there is something seriously wrong when we lose our appetite for the Bread of Life . . . Make time for Bible study. We should aim at securing at least half an hour each day for the leisurely and loving study of the Bible. To some this may seem like a long time, but it will soon seem all too short. It is an appetite that grows as it is fed. And you will be well repaid.”*

R.A. Torrey:

- *“To abide in Christ is to renounce any independent life of our own, and simply and constantly look to Christ to think His thoughts in us, to form His purposes in us, to feel His emotions and affections in us . . . If we are to obtain from God all that we ask from Him, Christ’s words must abide or continue in us. We must study His words, let them sink into our thought and into our heart, keep them in our memory, obey them constantly, let them shape and mold our daily life and our every act.”*

A.W. Tozer:

- *“If you would follow on to know the Lord, come at once to the open Bible expecting it to speak to you. Do not come with the notion that it is a thing which you may push around at your convenience.”*
- *“The Spirit-filled walk demands, for instance, that we live in the Word of God as a fish lives in the sea. By this I do not mean that we study the Bible merely, nor that we take a “course” in Bible doctrine. I mean that we should “meditate day and night” in the sacred Word that we should love it and feast upon it and digest it every hour of the day and night.”*
- *“ . . . get alone with God and His Word every day. I recommend that you turn off the radio and television and let your soul delight in the fellowship and the mercies of God.”*

Billy Graham:

- *“Martin Luther was reading his Bible when God spoke to him and it changed the course of history. You come back to the Bible. Begin to read it. Study it and God will speak to you and change you — and through you perhaps history can be changed.”*
- *“Although I have much to be grateful for as I look back over my life, I also have many regrets. I have failed many times, and I would do many things differently . . . I would spend more time in spiritual nurture, seeking to grow closer to God so I could become more like Christ. I would spend more time in prayer, not just for myself but for others. I would spend more time studying the Bible and meditating on its truth, not only for sermon preparation but to apply its message to my life.”*

Ravi Zacharias:

- *“A lot has happened in my life in the last few months that I am so grateful to God for; one of the most significant being the recovery of the early morning hours with God. I know that not everybody likes the early morning hours, and I don’t like them either. But let me be candid; the surge of emotions is going to storm you every day, possibly with some disappointment, some hurt, some heartbreak, some conflict, some argument, and probably some struggle. The best way I know how to face each day is to prepare the heart first thing in the morning before the pace picks up, to let God speak to your heart before you do anything else.”*
- *When I study in the morning (I say this with God as my witness), the next one and a half to two hours are the hours I enjoy most every day. I have paced the floor. I have read His Word. I have drawn closer to my Lord, and I have come to the conclusion after all of the years that I have been a believer, that the best days are the days where I’ve heard from Him first. “Early will I seek thee,” says the psalmist. My dear friends, if you ever want the victory over feelings, try this: Go early and seek Him so that He prepares that heart of yours. If you don’t do that, the emotions will knock you over by the middle of the day and you’ll be operating impulsively rather than from the sanctity of a heart seasoned by the sound of His reason.”*

Bruce Wilkinson:

- *"Some Christians I know try to have their meaningful personal times with God just before bed, but I have yet to find a respected spiritual leader throughout history who had devotions at night. Unless you get up early, you're unlikely to break through to a deeper relationship with God."*

Arthur S. DeMoss:

- *"No Bible, no breakfast."*

Woodrow Kroll:

- *"Years ago I would divide my time with God in half — reading His Word for half an hour and then praying for half an hour. But I had the feeling I was rushing away from God and so I began to divide my time in thirds. I would read for a third of the time, pray for a third of the time and then sit quietly before Him doing nothing for a third of the time. It revolutionized my intimacy with God. It was during that third time that He impressed things on me from my reading that I needed to know and how I should respond to our conversation in prayer. Waiting before God is a lost art, but one well worth regaining."*
- *"Bible illiteracy is not a problem in the church. Bible illiteracy is THE problem in the church."*

Kay Arthur:

- *"Our fruit, or sparseness of it, bears witness to our allegiance. When men have time for everything else except a personal, diligent study of God's Word, I know they are not approved unto God. They know much about the world but little about God . . . they have time for the things of this life but not time to study God's Word . . . Communion with God through his word and prayer is essential to the fruitful life that will hasten the coming of his kingdom."*

Beth Moore:

- *"A victorious day begins with a victorious morning . . . the moment you awake, settle the issue of authority. Awaken every morning to the challenge, "Choose . . . this day whom you will serve!" (Joshua 24:15).*

Warren Wiersbe:

- *"Once you have begun to cultivate this deeper communion with Christ, you will have no desire to return to the shallow life of a careless Christian."*

Dr. Jerry Falwell:

- *"I have been a Christian over 50 years, but every morning I find it necessary to meet with God in Bible study and prayer, personal devotion, and intimate fellowship. Before I go out I need the infusion of God's presence and power and anointing upon me. So do you!"*

Mother Teresa:

- *"The time we spend in having our daily audience with God is the most precious part of the whole day."*

Toyohiko Kagawa:

- *"When you start a Bible movement, it means revolution — a quiet revolution against darkness and crime."*

David F. Nygren:

- *"If all the neglected Bibles were dusted simultaneously, we would have a record dust storm and the sun would go into eclipse for a whole week."*

Charles Stanley:

- *"The amount of time we spend with Jesus — meditating on His Word and His majesty, seeking His face — establishes our fruitfulness in the kingdom."*

Henry Blackaby :

- *"Anyone who will take the time to enter into an intimate relationship with God can see God do extraordinary things through his life."*

God:

- *"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:10-11)*

God:

- *“Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.” (Joshua 1:8)*
- *“Let us go at once to entreat the Lord and SEEK the Lord Almighty. I myself am going.” (Zechariah 8:21)*

Can This Many People be Wrong??

Answer Key



Key Principles – Part I

Seek
Motivate
Dissatisfaction
Loneliness
Loneliness
Home sickness
Restlessness
Weaknesses
Pain
Brokenness
Provided
God
Prayer
God’s Word
Jesus Christ
The Holy Spirit

Key Principles – Part II

Roadblocks
World
Flesh
Ourselves
Pleasures
Things
God
Things
God
Substitution
Thief
Unbelief
Busyness
Distractions
Fear
Awe
Thoughts
I
Choose
Devotionals
First
Word
Desires

Himself
Faith
Moods
Every
No

Setting Your Heart on Seeking God

Desire
Decision
Daily
Authority
Place
Time
Relationship
Sunday
Time
Time
Plan
Written
Reality
Intimacy
Share
Easy-going
Self
Never
Power

The Natural Rewards of Seeking God

Know
Transformed
Will
Good work
Servant
Witness
Joy
God
Joy
Blessing
Everything



Thank you for taking the time to participate in this series. Many people have asked how they can support JoyShop Ministries. If this is your desire, there are various ways in which you can offer you support:

- **PRAY** for JoyShop Ministries.
As Oswald Chambers says: **“Prayer is the greater work.”**
- **PLACE** the gospel of John in someone else’s hand and invite others to take the 21 Day Challenge. Join the Pocket Testament League today. Discover the many different gospel cover designs to fit your style and your pocket. Use this powerful tool for evangelism and discipleship. Read it, Carry it, Share it! www.PTL.org
- **PARTNER** with us through the giving of finances. Your gift to JoyShop Ministries enables us to reach more people with the message of knowing Jesus more intimately through seeking Him first...daily. You can donate online at www.joyshop.org.
- **PURCHASE** additional materials or download free resources online and share this important joy-giving message with others.

-The JoyShop Team



Session I: Seeking God

1. Is it hard for you to believe that God really does desire to spend time with you?
2. If Jesus would personally come to you and ask why I can't seem to find time to spend with Him, what would you say? Genesis 3:9
3. How would you describe a devoted heart based on I Chronicles 22:19? What would that look like in your life?
4. What are the things you tend to seek over seeking God?
5. What verse spoke to you in the Acts 17 passage?
6. What new revelation did the Holy Spirit give you through Anita's story?
7. What do you desire to change in your life as a result of this workshop?
8. Take time to pray over the desires mentioned.

—

Session 2: Key Principles Part I

1. God created us so that we would seek Him. We have a natural (physical) body and a spiritual body. How do you care for each? Which one is easier to care for and why?
2. Of the built-in mechanisms that prompt us to seek God – dissatisfaction, loneliness, restlessness, weakness – which do you feel the most? How do you try to fill them if you don't seek God for help? How does God fill those needs when you seek Him? Which works better?



3. When is a time that you felt the “air of God”? How do you breathe God in?

4. Prayer, according to O. Hallesby, is “a means of intimate and joyous fellowship between God and ourselves.” Is this a new way of thinking about prayer for you? Does prayer sometimes feel like work to you – or an obligation? An afterthought? Be honest! How can you come to view it as your special time to chat with the One who created you?

5. Anita tells us that she accepted Christ at age 5, but she has messed up and wondered how the Holy Spirit could be within her. Have you ever doubted the Holy Spirit lives in you? How did you overcome the doubt – or are you still doubting?

6. Some Christians think we can go to church once a week, where someone else feeds us the Word, and that’s enough. However, if you are only in God’s Word on Sunday morning, you are spiritually sick! Take an honest look at yourself – are you sickly?

7. Kay Arthur says, “The Word of God has been lost in the house of God.” How do you react to that statement? Do you experience getting so busy doing the work of the church that you forget to spend time with Jesus? It can happen to all of us; let’s talk about how to safeguard against it.

8. Are there any other thoughts on this session that struck you or that you want to discuss?

Session 3: Key Principles Part II

1. Think about the roadblocks that slow you in seeking God. Share some as a group.



2. Reread 2 Timothy 3:1-5. What examples in this text resonate in your life?

3. We heard that your ministry can become the thing that interferes with intimacy with God. What thing in your life – even something good – interferes with your intimacy with God?

4. The enemy is always whispering little lies to us to condemn us. What are some of the lies that you’ve heard? How did you overcome them? If you haven’t, stop together as a group and pray about this right now, using the authority we have as believers in Christ to banish those condemning thoughts.

5. Satan can use the lie of busyness to ensure that we stay away from one-on-one time with God. What are some of the “busy” things in your life that you buy into – one more kid to drive around, one more chore to do around the house, one more project to complete at work? How can you honestly learn to say, “God comes first,” and not feel pressured or rushed in your time with Him?

6. Fear is a huge roadblock, yet it also allows us to have the opportunity to practice faith. How has fear prevented you from blessing others? Is fear preventing you from doing what you know God has called you to do? How could spending time in his Word help calm this fear?

7. Do you view the Bible as “holding the very thoughts of God in your hand,” as Oswald Chambers says? That’s pretty awesome! If not, why not? Is it because you don’t understand it? Maybe you even might confess you find it boring at times! It’s OK! But now, what steps can you take to address these reasons and get excited about the letters from God that you hold in your hand?

8. Do you use a devotional? Think about whether you allow it to take the place of reading the Bible for yourself and discovering what God wants to



teach you by reading His words with your own eyes. Share your insights with the group.

9. Do you make time with God a top priority? What time of day works best for you? Anita tells us that the seasons in her life where she wasn't putting God first were the times she made mistakes. Can you see that pattern in your life?

10. Faith is an ongoing decision. We don't understand everything about God or His ways, but Anita tells that she knows faith works so she is going to use it. When your faith waivers, what do you do? Share some ways you can effectively strengthen your fragile faith when life gets rough.

Session 4: Setting Your Heart

1. What do you think of the idea that we have to pray for the desire to seek God? Does that seem like an odd thing to pray for to you? Do you think you have that desire now? Why or why not?

2. What might prevent you from making a decision to spend daily time with God? Brainstorm together about ways to address common obstacles to that time alone with God.

3. Think about what time and spot would be best for you to meet with God. Share your ideas with each other.

4. How much time do you think would be "sufficient" to have a good quiet time with God? Does 30 minutes seem like a lot, not enough?

5. Do you keep a prayer journal? If so, how has it increased your awareness of God's involvement in your life?



6. Why do you think it's important to share what you've learned with someone? Who could you share it with on a regular basis?

7. Does anyone want to share what the cost may be in your life to spend time with God? In what ways will the rewards be worth the cost?

8. Anita talks about the 'lazy Christian syndrome.' Share your reactions to this. Is she too critical or is she right on? Talk about how recognizing your weaknesses in seeking God is not a bad thing; it's the best thing! Why?

Session 5: Natural Rewards

1. How have you learned to know the Lord thus far? Has it taken a lot of effort? Do you think it really could happen naturally by seeking Him first in your day?

2. How can you prepare your heart to know Him better? By praying? By reading the Bible? By singing praises?

3. Can you believe that you could be transformed by knowing God better? What does the word "transformation" really mean anyway? What are areas in your life that need transformation?

4. Do you worry about whether you are in God's will? How do you try to gauge whether you are or not?

5. Think about the gift(s) God has given you to serve the body of Christ. Share those in your group, if you like.

6. What do you think is the difference between the joy that comes from our circumstances in life and the joy that Jesus gives?



7. Do you believe that you will truly have everything you need if you seek God first? This might be difficult to believe; that's OK. Talk about why it might be difficult.

Session 6: 21-Day Challenge

1. So it's time to "get alone with God." How does that sound to you? Inviting? Exciting? Scary? Unachievable? Discuss your answers.
2. Will you commit to reading one chapter of John a day for 21 days, or at least a section of it? Is this an easy commitment to make? Why or why not? What might you have to give up or do differently in your daily routine to achieve this?
3. Perhaps you already started spending time with God after Session 1. If so, share how the first days of forming this new habit are going. What have you struggled with? How have you addressed that? If you haven't started yet, work together to formulate a plan to combat the obstacles to quiet time that you identified in Session 4.
4. It takes time for the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart. Has this ever happened to you? Care to share? Testifying to the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives can be a huge blessing to others!
5. Do you memorize Scripture? If yes, how does it help you in various situations in your life?
6. Is it easy for you to worship God at home – as easy as corporately in church? How do you worship Him at home?
7. Are you afraid to expect God to answer your prayers? What verses assure us that we can? What do we do when he doesn't appear to answer?



8. As you read John 15:1-17 and asked God 1) What do you want me to know? and 2) What do you want me to do?, what answers did you hear or feel?

9. Could history really be changed because you chose to prioritize your time with God? Why and in what ways?

10. Congratulations – you've finished the Seeking God First Workshop! Share one thing that hit close to home with you or one challenge that you are willing to take up as a result of doing this study. (Remember, we would also love to hear from you. Visit our website at www.joyshop.org and fill out our online evaluation.)

Evaluation Form



We value your feedback. Would you please take a moment to fill this form out and mail it back to us or visit our website to fill it out online? The online evaluation can be found under the 21 Day Challenge Tab.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Age: _____ 19 or under _____ 20-30 _____ 31-50 _____ 51 or older

Email: _____

How did you participate: DVD series _____ In-person workshop _____

(location) _____

Your Home Church: _____

As a result of JoyShop, I am:

_____ Accepting God's love for me and committing my life to Jesus Christ for the first time!

_____ Renewing my love and commitment to Jesus by spending time daily in God's word!

Please share any comments you may have: _____

Thank you for taking the time to provide us with valuable information to make our future JoyShops better! Mail to: PO Box 118. Washington Boro, PA 17582.