

Spending time alone with Jesus on a daily basis is the most important thing you can do to grow in your love for Him, learn to hear His voice, strengthen your faith, and experience His abundant presence and peace.

Building a daily habit is simple to get started. God is always waiting for you with open arms, so any time of day is fine, but many people prefer to start their day with Him. When you begin your morning with Him, you immediately tune your spirit and mind to His leading so that your perspective, attitude and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit are more aligned to be like Jesus throughout the day. Here are a few simple steps and ideas to get you going!

- 1. **Find a place** where you can be alone with God. Get creative if necessary. Some people even put a pillow on the floor in a closet. The important thing is to find a place where you can feel safe and undisturbed to pour your heart out before the Lord and listen to Him.
- 2. **Open with a simple prayer** by asking God to open your heart, tune your spiritual ears to listen, and to draw you closer to Him.
- 3. **Spend at least 10 minutes reading the Bible** with Cornerstone's <u>Daily Steps</u> or by using a reading plan in an App, like YouVersion, or with a devotional book. See the next page for suggestions. While you read, think about the passage and why God might be bringing it to your attention right now. Most importantly, read with an expectant heart and an open ear. God will speak to you through His Word as you grow in your relationship with Him.
- 4. **Pray, meditate and listen.** When you finish reading, spend time conversing with God. Speaking out loud to Him will help you focus. Remember to pause and listen frequently throughout your prayer time. While there is no formula for prayer, some people find it helpful to follow this outline when first getting comfortable with prayer. To help you remember, the first letter of each step spells the word "Acts."
 - Adoration praise God for who He is and what He's done; marvel upon His glory and power as King of your life
 - <u>C</u>onfession ask the Holy Spirit to reveal your sins to you and then confess, repent and ask for strength to resist in the future
 - <u>Thanksgiving</u> thank Him for the blessings in your life, as well as the trials, and ask Him to make you more dependent on Him
 - <u>Supplication</u> bring your burdens and requests before Him



Bible Types and Uses

Which version? There are many different versions, or translations, of the Bible. We recommend you start with either the New Living Translation or the English Standard Version. These versions use today's language but closely retain the word-for-word meaning of the original scriptures. For additional insight and cultural context, but not as a primary text, you might want to check out The Message version, which is a paraphrase.

Which type? If you want additional commentary from Biblical scholars, Study Bibles include extensive notes and historical context. If you want to read through the Bible in a year, along with devotional content, we suggest the Daily Walk Bible.

Bible Apps for Smartphones and Tablets:

These Apps are FREE and offer a variety of reading plans based on topics, books of the Bible, or specific goals. Access and read the entire Bible in any version, including some available for download. Just search for them by name in the App Store on your smartphone or tablet.



Suggested Daily Devotionals:

- Cornerstone Fellowship's <u>Daily Steps</u> (available in our App or website)
- Daily Walk Bible (read through the Bible in a Year)
- Jesus Calling or Jesus Today, by Sarah Young
- My Utmost for His Highest (Modern Language Edition), by Oswald Chambers

Supplemental Reading for Exploring and Deepening Your Faith:

- The Case for Christ: A Journalist's Personal Investigation of the Evidence for Jesus, Lee Strobel (<u>Book</u> or <u>Movie</u>)
- How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth, Gordon D. Fee
- The Purpose-Driven Life, Rick Warren
- Mere Christianity, C.S. Lewis (Best-selling classic of Christian faith)
- <u>How People Grow</u>, Henry Cloud & John Townsend