

DEVOTIONS

Pathfinder level



Purpose

The aim of this badge is to challenge you to spend time regularly listening and talking to God and to help you with some ways of doing this.

Exploring

Good friends spend time together. If you are God’s friend you will want to listen to Him and talk with Him regularly. A daily devotion or ‘quiet time’ is a good idea. It takes a bit of an effort and discipline but it’s really worth it.

There are many ways of spending time with God and you can meet him any time, any place. Try the following suggestions and explore what the Bible says about time with God.

1. Find a quiet place where you can be by yourself and decide on a regular time; for instance straight after you get up in the morning, just before bed, just before or straight after dinner; whatever is best for you.

- When and where did Daniel pray according to Daniel 6: 10?

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- When and where did Jesus pray according to Matthew 14: 23 and Mark 1: 35?

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- What is the best time and place for you to meet with God?

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2. Ask God in a short prayer that He will speak to you through the Bible and make your time with Him worthwhile.

In your own words write what the prayers in these verses ask for:

Psalm 119: 18

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Psalm 139: 23,24

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3. Listen to God by reading the Bible. Keep in mind what God wants to do in your life through His word.

According to the following verses why did God give us the Bible? Put it in your own words.

John 20: 30,31

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2 Timothy 3: 16,17

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4. Think about what God is saying to you through what you have read - this is called reflection or meditation. It is often useful to have some set questions to ask yourself and write down the answers. Here are some sample questions you might ask about a Bible passage.

- What is it saying about God?
- What promise can I believe?
- What is it telling me to do?

Now read Mark 4: 35-41.

What three questions might you ask to help you understand what God is saying? Write them down.

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5. Spend some time in prayer. God has talked to you through His word, now you can talk with Him. Thank Him for the things He has done in your life. Confess things you've done wrong and ask Him to forgive you. Ask Him to help you do what He told you in the Bible passage you read. Pray for other people and ask for things you need.

There are many prayers and people praying in the Bible. Find **one** of those and see what it consists of: praise, thanks, requests, confession.

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Here are some examples but find your own if you can.

Psalm 51 :1-15, Exodus 33: 12-13, 2 Chronicles 6: 14-21, Matthew 6: 9, 13.

6. The Bible, which was originally written in Hebrew and Greek, has been translated into the English language in different ways. Read a short Bible passage, say Romans 12 :1,2, from THREE different translations, (e.g. King James, New American Standard, Living Bible, Good News, New International Version.)

Which is easiest to understand?

Which do you like best?

Doing

1. Ask three different people in your church when and how they spend some personal time with God listening and praying (You could ask your minister or elder, a grandparent, one of your friend's parents, a teenager). Write down their replies.

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2. There are lots of booklets and suggestions to help you with devotions (Scripture Union, Navigators, Bible Way etc.) Go to a Christian bookshop or ask your minister or

leader and find three different devotional guides suitable for your age group. List them.

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3. Prepare a 'Time with God' schedule which you will use for two months. You should include at least 20 days out of each month. Prepare it as follows:

MY TIME WITH GOD SCHEDULE

For the first month follow ONE of the devotional guides you found.
For the second month read a chapter a day from a book in the Bible.
(e.g. Mark's Gospel, The Acts of The Apostles or The Book of Judges).
Each day give the chapter a title in your own words and ask some questions about it.

4. Each week select **one** verse from the passage you have read which you want to remember because God said something special to you. Memorise these verses and at the end of the two months your leader will ask you to say three verses from memory.

List the verses as you go.

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Reflection

By spending regular time with God what have you learnt about God and yourself?

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How will you make sure you continue this good habit?

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Ask your Counsellor to sign below and arrange for the presentation of your badge.

..... date