**TIME ALONE WITH GOD**

Ingredients:

* Half an hour, every day.
* Quiet, so you focus on yourself and on God;
* Prayer, worship, thanksgiving, as your response to God
* Word, so you can ponder His truth
* Life, people and events, so you are aware of Him in these situations

Method:

* Time – a fixed time when you are unlikely to be interrupted is best but more important is to actually start having such a time with God.
* Quiet – A simple method is to be quiet until you are aware you are in God’s presence before you start to respond to Him.
* Word – Read and be familiar with what is said. Meditate on the Word: “What does it say?” “What does it mean?” “How should I respond?” You may use the questions to help you or set them aside.
* Life – Use the time to also be aware of the things that are happening, inside you and around you. Bring these before God and speak to Him.

# Monday

**JOSHUA 1:9-11**

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. Read the text until you can understand what it says. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.

*We have focused on Joshua 1:1-11 in 2021 Week 27 and are completing the chapter this week.*

1. *“Have I not commanded you?”* When God commands we should pay attention and obey. The obstacles, problems, difficulties can be considered later but the response to obey is important. What has God laid on your heart to do?
2. *“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”* When God commands, he supports. The series of promises, encouragement and advice that God gave was intended to support Joshua to obey God’s command. How can the promises that Joshua received be an encouragement to you in your own obedience to God?
3. *“So Joshua ordered …”* In doing so Joshua accepted the reins of leadership over his people, stepping into the shoes of Moses, as God commanded. What about you? Do you accept the task that God has set before you?
4. *“Get your provisions ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the Lord your God is giving you for your own.”* Based on God’s promises and command, Joshua leads his people to trust and obey God’s word. In your leadership (whether as church leader, small group leader, parent, sunday school teacher, or where you have influence over another) do you deepen the faith of others in God? In what ways can you achieve this (and in what ways might you unintentionally point people away from God)?
5. Whether it is to lead the church or a small group, to share the Gospel with someone, to deal with an area of sin in your life, to grow and deepen your walk with God, there is always work to be done and God has promised to equip you for the work at hand. He commands us to obey in faith. Write down a prayer in response.

# Tuesday

**JOSHUA 1:9-11**

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. Read the passage. Review the answers/thoughts you wrote down yesterday. Is there anything that you need to respond to?
3. Review the past day. What concerns/joys/events occupy your heart?
4. Write down a prayer in response.

# Wednesday

**JOSHUA 1:12-15**

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. Read the text until you can understand what it says. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. The Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh will be occupying the land where they currently are and not the land on the other side of the Jordan. Essentially if they cross the Jordan to fight, they will not be fighting for themselves. What does Joshua require them to do?
3. What is the principle that Joshua laid down (v15)? How can you apply this principle to your brothers and sisters in Christ in church?
4. As the Lord has blessed you so you should desire that your brothers and sisters be blessed as well. In what ways can you contribute to the welfare of the church community? Write down a prayer in response.

# Thursday

**JOSHUA 1:12-15**

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. Read the passage. Review the answers/thoughts you wrote down yesterday. Is there anything that you need to respond to?
3. Review the past day. What concerns/joys/events occupy your heart?
4. Write down a prayer in response.

# Friday

**JOSHUA 1:16-18**

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. Read the text until you can understand what it says. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. *“Whatever you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go.”* Leadership is a heavy responsibility and it requires the complete cooperation of the people. Do you support the leadership of those in positions of authority or are you basically unresponsive to their leadership? Are you a responsible member of your church community?
3. *“Only may the Lord your God be with you.”* The principle is that the people recognise that Joshua is God’s appointed leader for them and their obedience to him reflects their obedience to God. Thus it is vital that the leadership of the church demonstrate that they in turn are obedient to God and walk in fellowship with him. As a leader of the church, what does this mean to you, or as a member of the church, what does this mean to you?
4. Write down a prayer in response.

# Saturday

**JOSHUA 1:16-18**

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. Read the passage. Review the answers/thoughts you wrote down yesterday. Is there anything that you need to respond to?
3. Review the past day. What concerns/joys/events occupy your heart?
4. Write down a prayer in response.

# Sunday

##### THE CHURCH IN THE PROMISED LAND

Ultimately it is God who will get the church “across the Jordan and into the Promised Land”; from being a motley collection of people to Israel, the people of God. If that is the case, then what we need is clear.

Firstly faith and not fear. Fear stops us while faith moves us. That faith must not only reside in the leaders; it must be instilled in the members as well. It could well be that at times the Lord stops us from a particular direction, but always in order to direct us to where he wants us to be and to do. Is your church stagnant or vibrant?

Secondly, God-interest and group-interest and not self-interest. When members care only for themselves then the blessing of God will dry up because they do not care to bless others around them when they are blessed by God. God’s resources are channeled through his People for his Purposes and his Church. Is your church overflowing with blessing and thanksgiving or is it dry and in need?

Thirdly, God-led and obedient. The primary responsibility of leadership is to be in fellowship with God, hearing his voice and responding to his direction. It falls on the rest of the church to act in response to their leadership and bring to fruition the vision and direction set by the leaders, as received from God. Is your church purposeful or is it maintaining a cycle of activities? Is there unity or are members doing what they please?

In all these, what part do you play? Where are you strong? Where are you weak? Consider these matters seriously before God.

1. Take time to be quiet, until you can focus on being in the presence of God. If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. Review the answers/thoughts you wrote down in the past week. What conclusion can you draw from the passages of Scripture you have been considering? Is there anything that you need to respond to?
3. Read the short sharing above. Do they add anything to your own conclusions?
4. Review the past week. What concerns/joys/events occupy your heart?
5. Write down a prayer in response.