**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

[**1 CHRONICLES 17:1-10a**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+chr+17&version=NIV)

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. Vv1-2: What did David want to do? Why?
3. Vv3-6: How did God respond to this intention of David? While David had good intentions, God made clear that he had never asked for this. Why is this an important point that God makes to David?
4. Vv7-10a: Notice the emphasis in what the Lord told Nathan to tell David: I took you, appointed you, been with you, I have cut off all your enemies, I will make your name great, I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them, I appointed leaders over my people, I will also give you rest. What is the point that God is making? What does David need to realise about his kingship and about God?
5. What can you learn from David’s experience in the things that you want to do for God? Is there anything that God has asked you to do for him? What are they?
6. Write down a prayer in response.

# Tuesday

[**1 CHRONICLES 17:1-10a**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+chr+17&version=NIV)

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

[**1 CHRONICLES 17:10b-15**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+chr+17&version=NIV)

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. Vv10b: David wanted to build a house for God. Instead God will establish a house for David. What is this house? Is it a physical house, a kingdom? Why, do you think, after saying no to David’s desire to build a temple, did God promise to bless David in this way?
3. Vv11-14: Solomon, David’s son, ultimately built the Temple in Jerusalem and his reign is considered the golden age of Israel at that time. What did God promise to be towards Solomon?
4. Who else among David’s descendents would build the house of God and establish an eternal kingdom? (Read Paul’s sermon in Pisidian Antioch in Acts 13, specifically v23.)
5. Paul, in Acts 13:22, said that God characterised David as “a man after my own heart”. What do you think God found in David to respond to him in this way? Would you aspire to be likewise? Write down a prayer in response.

# Thursday

[**1 CHRONICLES 17:10b-15**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+chr+17&version=NIV)

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

[**1 CHRONICLES 17:16-27**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+chr+17&version=NIV)

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. Vv16-19: What was the attitude that David brought to the Lord in his prayer? How did he express this attitude?
3. Vv20-22: Here David praised God. How was his praise expressed?
4. Vv23-24: Clearly David was very excited about God’s promise to establish David’s house. How did he couch his prayer so that it is not about him but about God?
5. Vv25-27: The basis of David’s prayer is the promise of God and faith is the assurance that God will always keep his promises. What can we learn from David about seeking God’s blessing?
6. As you come before God with your needs, think of a specific promise that God has made in his Word. Write down a prayer in response.

# Saturday

[**1 CHRONICLES 17:16-27**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+chr+17&version=NIV)

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

##### A MAN AFTER GOD’S OWN HEART

It came from good motives, this desire of David to build a Temple for God. “How can I live well while the God who has done so much for me dwells in a tent?” But the thought came from values that are not God’s values. God’s glory is not expressed by physical buildings and other things that are precious to man. As David quickly learned and expressed in his prayer, God’s glory is in who he is. He is the God who is true to his promises, faithful to his people, awesome in his power, yet loving and generous towards those who are called by his name.

God nevertheless is pleased with David’s intentions. It came from a good place, wanting to express his love and gratitude. And God responded by promising to establish the house of David. Though he did not know it then, David’s name is forever honoured because Jesus was a descendent of David and this Son of David is the one who established the eternal house of God in all of us who believe.

*Who am I, Lord God, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far? And as if this were not enough in your sight, my God, you have spoken about the future of the house of your servant. You, Lord God, have looked on me as though I were the most exalted of men. “What more can David say to you for honoring your servant? For you know your servant, Lord. For the sake of your servant and according to your will, you have done this great thing and made known all these great promises. “There is no one like you, Lord, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears.”*

When you examine David’s relationship with God you will see not the greatness of David but the greatness of God. David’s key quality is his genuineness before God. Paul, in Acts 13:22, told us that God said of David, ‘I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.’ And God responds to David’s genuineness and is pleased to bless him, even bestowing on him an honour that is unparalleled.

This genuineness before God is something that we can learn in our relationship with our God. Then perhaps you may wonder in your heart, “How can I live well, while the God who has so blessed me dwells in a small corner in my life.”

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. Recall the sermon in Church or 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.