[**TIME ALONE WITH GOD**](http://timealonewithgod.org/)

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

[**GENESIS 1:1-8**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=gen+1&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.

*Genesis 1 is a sweeping description of God in the act of creation. The focus is on God; don’t be caught up in the details. There is a poetic form to the writing, with the days escalating from formlessness to a world teeming with life, to man in God’s image.*

1. *“In the beginning God ...”* This is not the beginning of the earth, or the beginning of organic life, because they came later. This is the beginning of Time and God is God before time began. What does this tell you about God?
2. *“And God said …”* God expressed his will. Paul in Colossians, speaking about the Son, said *“For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.”* How do you marry the two pictures of Creation? What does this tell you about God?
3. *“Let there be … and there was …”* *“Let there be … And it was so.”* This is a pattern repeated throughout the chapter. What do you think the writer wants to convey?
4. Genesis 1 tells us of God’s complete control over all of creation because he acted “in the beginning”. Even time was his creation. Everything was an expression of his will. Write down a prayer in response.

# Tuesday

[**GENESIS 1:1-8**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=gen+1&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

[**GENESIS 1:9-19**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=gen+1&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. *“God said…, God set…, God made…, God called…, God saw…”* What is the writer trying to convey?
3. With such direct and personal involvement in creation, the universe and all that is in it expresses the being of God. From whatever knowledge and experience you have of the universe and all that God has created, including the nature that surrounds you, what can you learn about God?
4. David responds to God’s creation in Psalm 8:

*Lord, our Lord,*

 *how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

*You have set your glory*

 *in the heavens.*

*Through the praise of children and infants*

 *you have established a stronghold against your enemies,*

 *to silence the foe and the avenger.*

*When I consider your heavens,*

 *the work of your fingers,*

*the moon and the stars,*

 *which you have set in place,*

*what is mankind that you are mindful of them,*

 *human beings that you care for them?*

Write down a prayer in response.

# Thursday

[**GENESIS 1:9-19**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=gen+1&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

[**GENESIS 1:20-31**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=gen+1&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. On the third day God created plant life to cover the land and on the fifth day he created winged animals and sea creatures to populate the air and sea. On the sixth day he created land animals to populate the land. Thus God filled the earth with organic life. At each point we get the repeated phrase “And God saw that it was good.” What does it convey? What made God say that it was good?
3. What was different in the creation of mankind from the creation of all other life?
4. What does “in his own image” mean? Physical or spiritual or both? Is it significant that mankind, created in God’s image, was given the responsibility to rule over all created life? What does this tell you about God’s intentions?
5. Do you think God created man in his image to look after his creation, or that God all along intended to create “man-in-his-image” and the rest of creation was the environment for him to thrive in?
6. What does it mean to you, that you are a member of the species that God has imparted his image and appointed and equipped to rule over his creation? What was God’s intention for mankind? Write down a prayer in response.

# Saturday

[**GENESIS 1:20-31**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=gen+1&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

##### OUR CREATIVE GOD

Genesis 1 is not written to tell us how life began or how the universe came into being. That truth is dealt with in one line: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

The first chapter of Genesis instead paints a picture of our Creative God, intimately involved in the act of creation. From a formless void to a universe teeming with lights and an earth teeming with life, God was shown intimately involved — expressing his wishes, making and fashioning large celestial bodies as well as complex and delicate life forms, giving each its place and role in his creation, and stepping back every now and then to view the results of his work — and it was good.

There is a strong emphasis that God’s creation was deemed good by God; not in terms of excellent handiwork for that is a foregone conclusion, but that his creation resonates with God, that it expresses his being and is entirely and completely in harmony with who he is.

The creation of mankind is of course the central reason for his act of creation in the first place. God intended to create man in his image; to have a species of living creatures that has the special divine qualities of love, moral goodness and righteousness, and to have this race rule over his creation.

Mankind always has a special place in God’s heart as a result, so much so when man sinned and corruption entered God’s creation that he had deemed good, God went to the extent of the cross to redeem mankind and thus his creation.

*What is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?*

*Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.*

*You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet.*

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.