[**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 2:4-14**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%202&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 2 is a second telling of the story of creation, this time focusing on the creation of man. Like Genesis 1, there is no need to read the details here literally.*

1. *“Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.”* Genesis 1 tells us that man was made “in his own image” and in this second telling, we are told that God breathed into man the breath of life. What do these details, exclusive to man, tell you about God’s intentions for you?
2. Two very different components are involved in the creation of man: matter (the dust of the ground) and spirit (the breath of life from God). From his origins, man is both common and uncommon. In this respect, what is the place of man in relation to the rest of creation and God? What does this passage tell you about who you are, your origin?
3. *“Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.”* God created a beautiful and luxuriant home for man. What does this tell you about God’s relationship with man? And about God?
4. In this more intimate account of God’s creation of man, what strikes you the most about God? Write down a prayer in response.

# Tuesday

[**GENESIS 2:4-14**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%202&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 2:15-17**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%202&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. The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. What was the task of man? Knowing what God had done in the creation of man, how would you describe the work he has for man? From this, what do you think is the primary work (your reason for existence) that you have been created for?
3. *And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”* Note that the command has two components: a freedom and a restriction with the restriction basically a warning of danger. What does this tell you about God’s will for man?
4. What do you think God basically wants for you when he commands you and expresses his will? Why do we have such difficulty with his will?
5. Write down a prayer in response.

# Thursday

[**GENESIS 2:15-17**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%202&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 2:18-25**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%202&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. “It is not good for the man to be alone.” In the first account of creation in chapter 1, God frequently stepped back to view his creation and expressed his satisfaction “And God saw that it was good.” For the first time we read that in God’s eyes it was not good. Why is it not good? Why do you think that God tells us this detail about us? What does this tell us about man, and about God?
3. *“I will make a helper suitable for him.” “But for Adam no suitable helper was found.”* Why is it significant to note that there was no suitable helper for Adam among the animals? What do you think the rest of creation lacks to give man the fellowship and help he needs? Why doesn’t God fill the void himself?
4. The relationship with the greatest potential for deep and meaningful fellowship is marriage and indeed the passage moves into a description of marriage. Does this mean that man should marry in order to be truly fulfilled? Are single people living second best lives? What do you think is the answer to God’s assessment that “It is not good for the man to be alone”?
5. Why is it important that we have meaningful relationships? Write down a prayer in response.

# Saturday

[**GENESIS 2:18-25**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%202&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

##### THE MAKING OF MAN

Fashioned from the dust of the ground, in common with the rest of creation, man had a unique beginning, with God breathing the breath of life into him. Clearly “the image of God” has to come with a part of the divine, giving man his unique position to rule over God’s creation as his representative.

That unique origin translates to a unique nature. Man must be in community to thrive. It is not good for man to be alone. That makes complete sense because the image of God is expressed in community, not alone. Love, righteousness, compassion, goodness exist only in community.

The companionship envisaged by God cannot be filled by the rest of creation. Not only are they without the spirit of God and his divine qualities, they are also to be ruled over by man. God created woman, one who is his helper and not one for him to rule over. She is his equal; created to stand at his side.

God, in creating the garden for man, in giving him authority to rule over the rest of creation, in delegating him the work of caring for the garden, in granting him freedom except the freedom to harm himself, in giving him a helper that he can have strong bonds with — God is man’s loving creator, ensuring his complete development and growth. His will is for man’s good, his shalom, his welfare.

When we capture this picture of God and all that he has done and continues to do, the only response is to trust him and to love him and to entrust ourselves to him.

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.