[**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

[**JOHN 1:1-2**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john+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. What is the main point that John reveals about the Word in these two verses? If the Word was God, why say that the Word existed in the beginning and was with God?
3. Who was John referring to as the Word (take a look at v14 and the rest of the chapter)?
4. In these two verses, John twice mentioned that this was “in the beginning”, clearly a reference to the first few words Genesis 1:1 (In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.) What do you think John intends us to appreciate by reminding us of Genesis 1?
5. Since we know that Jesus was born to Joseph and Mary, how is it that John can say that Jesus, who is the Word, existed in the beginning? What is he implying and claiming about Jesus? Do you think such a thing is possible?
6. How can God, (the Word was God), become human? Why would he do so? Can you imagine that Jesus, who sacrificed himself to save you, is actually God and was in existence before the beginning of time? Write down a prayer in response.

# Tuesday

[**JOHN 1:1-2**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john+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

[**JOHN 1:2-3**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john+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. (It would make sense to read from vv1-3.) If you have any initial thoughts, write them down.
2. Jesus, who is the Word, was with God in the beginning and so he was there when Creation took place. *“Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.”* What is John emphasising here? What does it imply about Jesus if he was responsible for the existence of all things and there is nothing in existence that he had not created?
3. What does it imply about us, as one of those that he has brought into existence?
4. As our Creator, the Word has full ownership, full power, and holds our fate in his hands. At the same time, he fully knows us, he loves us as his Creation, and cares for us as our Owner. That’s why he tells us that he is the Good Shepherd. Write down a prayer in response.

# Thursday

[**JOHN 1:2-3**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john+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

[**JOHN 1:4-5**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john+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. *“In him was life...”* That implies that the life that we possess ultimately came from him. He is the source of our life. Do you think John is referring to life in that our hearts are beating and we are still breathing? What do you think this “life” that is *in the Word* is? What would you imagine it to be?
3. *“... and that life was the light of all mankind.”* In other words, the life that the Word gave to mankind, the life that was in him, makes mankind shine in the eyes of God. What is this life that is so special (think back to Genesis 1 and 2 as to what God gave to Man as he made Man a living being)?
4. *“The light shines in the darkness ...”* Darkness is the absence of light. Mankind, who was given the light, has stopped shining. *“... and the darkness has not overcome it.”* What does that mean? Why has Mankind stopped shining? If Mankind has stopped shining, what is this light that still shines and is not overcome by the darkness? (Hint: See John 8:12)
5. In Genesis 1 we are told that God made man “in his image”. In Genesis 2, we are told that God
“breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.” The life we have is not just “God said … and it was”. The life we have is a part of who God is. *“In him was life …”* This is who you are. Write down a prayer in response.

# Saturday

[**JOHN 1:4-5**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john+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

##### IN THE BEGINNING

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.*

With these 3 sentences, John outlines a theology that is so audacious and impossible, it must have been revealed to him. Clearly he wanted to convey the divinity of Jesus but wanted us not to identify him as the man who walked on earth, but that the man who walked on earth was the Word became flesh.

While Genesis 1 tells us that God created the heavens and the earth, John tells us that the Word was responsible for the creation of all things. And before we think that John was talking about two Gods, he then made the astonishing revelation: the Word was with God and the Word was God. Both separate and the same.

While “in the beginning” in Genesis 1 speaks of the Creation of the universe of Man, John’s “in the beginning” is the beginning of a different story: the story of how the Word now comes to restore the light of Mankind; the story of the Redemption of Man and his universe. It is instructive that the Word is at the heart of both the stories because it tells us of the love and commitment of the Word towards his Creation.

In him was life and that life was the light of all mankind. But that light was snuffed out by the sin of Adam and mankind has been darkness ever since. Now the Word, who gave life to mankind in the first place, comes as Jesus, a man, to give his life for mankind.

If the first story reveals the glory of a God who created the wonders of heaven and earth and finally placed his image, his breath, his life, into his masterpiece, man, the second story reveals the glory of a God whose love and faithfulness brought him to become a man, Jesus, and ultimately to sacrifice himself in order that mankind may have life restored again.

This is God: Creator and Saviour. Let us bow in worship and adoration and praise.

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.