[**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

[**LUKE 7:1-10**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%207&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 centurion is a roman soldier, not a jew. Who asked who to ask who to heal who? Why not go directly? How did Jesus respond?
3. Why did the centurion stop Jesus halfway? Why via friends?
4. *“For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”* What does the centurion mean?
5. *“I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.”* Do you think great faith was demonstrated because the centurion thinks Jesus can just heal without being present, or he has such a high regard for Jesus and feels he is not worthy for Jesus to come to his house? Or both? What do you think, in Jesus’ mind, is the essence of great faith?
6. Is such great faith out of our reach? Do you have such faith? Write down a prayer in response.

# Tuesday

[**LUKE 7:1-10**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%207&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

[**LUKE 7:11-17**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%207&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. *“A dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow.”* In that society, what would “only son died and widowed” imply about the woman?
3. *When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don’t cry.”* How would you describe Jesus’ response?
4. *“Young man, I say to you, get up!”* Who asked Jesus to raise the young man? Why did Jesus do it? Why doesn’t Jesus do this for every poor widow in the land? What conclusions can you fairly draw from this incident?
5. How did people respond? What did they learn about God? Do you think they now expect God to heal everyone and raise dead sons? What conclusions did they draw from this?
6. What would you say to Jesus, having seen him in action in this way? Write down a prayer in response.

# Thursday

[**LUKE 7:11-17**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%207&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

[**LUKE 7:36-50**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%207&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 was the background of the woman? How would you respond if this woman comes to your house? What did she do? Why do you think she did that?
3. *“If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner.”* Simon’s issue is not the woman. He is very clear who she is. But now Simon is making up his mind about Jesus, based on what he sees. How would you have expected Jesus to respond to the woman? Why do you think Jesus seems to just let the woman carry on?
4. *“Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”* What is Jesus saying to Simon? Why? After all, Simon has yet to make up his mind as to Jesus’ credentials. What has Simon done wrong? How would he have stacked up against the centurion?
5. Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven. Your faith has saved you; go in peace.” Speaking to the woman, Jesus now ignores the crowd and its reaction. What do you learn about Jesus? What do you think Jesus’ words will mean to the woman?
6. How would you describe the essence of the woman’s faith? What can you learn from her? Write down a prayer in response.

# Saturday

[**LUKE 7:36-50**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%207&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

**FAITH**

*“I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.”*

It took a non-jew to demonstrate great faith. It took a prostitute to show a religious leader how to express faith. Which goes to show that it has nothing to do with background or learning. These things, so valued by man, mean nothing to God, who looks into the heart.

It is common to think that great faith is when we believe that the impossible can happen. The more incredible the belief, the greater the faith. Even more if that faith is accompanied by “all or nothing” actions, meaning that we put ourselves in situations where if faith does not bring the desired outcome then we will lose all. Throw away your crutches; stop all medication; give away everything.

However, isn’t it more true that the greatness of our faith rests upon the greatness of the one we put our faith on? And do we really have faith in a great God if in our behaviour we fail to acknowledge the greatness of our God? The centurion believed in a great God; one whom he is not worthy to even have as a guest in his house! The rest of his actions were just logical extensions of that belief.

The woman said nothing, yet her actions spoke loudly as to who she considers Jesus to be. Even more, she has come to him with a burden that only God can release. No one else in the room believed Jesus could forgive. *“Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”*

As for the widow, who knows what is in her heart, except our Lord. She was in a desperate situation. In the face of death, what can she ask for? *When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don’t cry.”* In times when our faith fails, but faith that must surely exist in the first place, our Lord does not.

*“Young man, I say to you, get up!”*

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.