[**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 7:18-23**](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. Having been imprisoned by Herod, John could not follow what Jesus was doing, only receiving reports from his disciples. *“Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”* He had a crisis. Are you the Messiah or should we expect someone else? What was the source of John’s doubts? Would you consider this a black mark against him? Why? What did John do with his problem? Would you consider this a plus point for him? Why?
3. How did Jesus respond to John’s question?
4. Consider “*John’s disciples told him about all these things. (v18)”*  and *“Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”* Do you think there will be a difference? Why do you think so?
5. In responding to John’s question about his identity, Jesus did not answer directly but pointed to what he has been doing and how they correspond to the language of the prophets when they prophesy about the Messiah. It is not the miracles themselves but the fulfilment of Scripture. How can this help us when we experience our own crisis of faith? Write down a prayer in response.

# Tuesday

[**LUKE 7:18-23**](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 7:24-30**](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. *“But what did you go out to see?”* Who were you looking for? What were you expecting? Jesus asked this of his listeners, many of whom were baptised by John. This is a good question to answer for ourselves. When we come to Jesus, what are we expecting? When we come to listen to a preacher, what are we expecting? When we come to God’s Word, what are we expecting?
3. *“It is written.”* Ultimately we should be looking to find the Truth of God. But what do we expect that truth to be like? *“I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”* The Truth can be so unexpected that we need to go looking with a heart to learn. How is it that Jesus could affirm John to be truly great even though he had a crisis of faith? What does this teach us about how God views our failings? Yet, how can it be that each of us (I don’t know about you but I don’t amount to very much), as a true disciple of Jesus, can be greater than John with his pedigree and experience?
4. *“All the people, even the tax collectors, when they heard Jesus’ words, acknowledged that God’s way was right, because they had been baptized by John.”* What did the writer tell us about Jesus’ listeners? Would you say that John accomplished the ministry he was given?
5. What would you want to be the hallmark of your own life and ministry? Write down a prayer in response.

# Thursday

[**LUKE 7:24-30**](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 7:31-35**](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. *“To what, then, can I compare the people of this generation? What are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling out to each other: “‘We played the pipe for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not cry.’”* Who are the people of this generation? Would it include us? What does Jesus mean when he says we are like these children? What were the children saying to each other?
3. *For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’* John sang the dirge (a funeral song), Jesus played the pipe but the Jewish leaders only raised objections. They did not want to learn the Truth. What is Jesus teaching us about coming to the Truth?
4. *But wisdom is proved right by all her children.* There is another way of being children; being the product of. Those who are the product of wisdom, will have a different attitude. These will prove true the Truth of God. What can you remember about what the Bible teaches us about wisdom? How can being wise in these ways help us know God? Write down a prayer in response.

# Saturday

[**LUKE 7:31-35**](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

**WISDOM**

*“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” (Proverbs 1:7)*

John the Baptizer had doubts. He was receiving all sorts of reports from his disciples, very likely coloured by expectations and opinions rather than *“what you have seen and heard”*. He could not know the situation first-hand as he was in prison. What is happening? And so he took action by going right to the source: *Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?*

John was not in doubt that it was Jesus who was pointed out to him. He was just unsure as to whether he is the Messiah. And in simple faith, he asked him.

Jesus’ response was instructive. Whether he is the one is revealed by God’s Word. And the Truth of God’s Word is revealed in “time and space”—in what actually happens. Biblical truth is located in real life and not in fine philosophical arguments. *“Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard.”*

Jesus then asked those around him, *“What did you go out into the wilderness to see?”* What are your expectations and how do they colour what you see? John comes like a prophet and people say he is mad. Jesus comes like a regular guy and people say *‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’* These people interpret what they see according to their expectations and points of view. They are not serious seekers of the Truth. They are like children playing a game. God’s Truth will be received by those who truly seek to know.

But those who are children of wisdom, who truly seek to know God and be taught by him, they will be the evidence for others to find him and know Him as well. These will be “greater than John” because in finding their way into the Kingdom of God, they would have been born of the Spirit, not just of woman. Their lives will point to Jesus and be proof that indeed Jesus is the one who was to come.

*“But wisdom is proved right by all her children.”*

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.