[**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

[**JOSHUA 5:2-12**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+5&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.

*In Numbers 13-14 we read of how the Israelites rebelled against God, believing that they would die trying to take Canaan, the land that God promised to their forefathers and to them. God swore that they will never enter the Promised Land. That generation has passed away and now a new generation under Joshua gets ready to claim God’s Promised Land.*

1. *“Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites again.”* What does the act of circumcision symbolise (see Genesis 17:9-14)? This generation of Israelites have not been circumcised. *“Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.”* Once the Israelites have circumcised themselves, they are once again heirs of God’s covenant with Abraham. Why is this an important first step?
2. *“On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover.”* What does the Passover commemorate (see Exodus 12)? What does celebrating the Passover at this point achieve?
3. *“The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate the produce of Canaan.”* The manna was the food that God provided them all the days they were in the wilderness. What does it mean that the manna stopped?
4. Circumcision marks the Israelites as the people of God and connects them to God’s promises. They are no longer slaves of Egypt but children of God’s promise. In the Passover the Israelites commemorate the day God rescued them out of Egypt through “the blood of the lamb” and the cessation of the manna means that they are now leaving the wilderness and ready to possess the land and enjoy the resources there. Everything points to a new beginning as they prepare to take the Promised Land. How do these preparations remind you of when you began your own Christian journey? What is your new identity? What challenges lie ahead of you? What resources are yours? Write down a prayer in response.

# Tuesday

[**JOSHUA 5:2-12**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+5&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

[**JOSHUA 5:13-6:14**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+5&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 as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.”* What does the presence of the Commander of the Lord’s Army symbolise? *“Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.”* Who does this angel represent?
3. *Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, “What message does my Lord have for his servant?”* What was Joshua’s attitude?
4. The instructions Joshua received for the Battle of Jericho were not conventional battle tactics. With the army silently marching round the walls of Jericho, and the presence of the Ark of the Covenant and priests bearing trumpets, what do you think is the message to the people of Jericho as they watched this go on for 6 days?
5. The Presence of God, symbolised by the ark and the priests makes all the difference. As you face the day, or the task ahead, or the battle with sin, how can you ensure that the Presence of God is with you? What encouragement can you take from the Battle of Jericho? Write down a prayer in response.

# Thursday

[**JOSHUA 5:13-6:14**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua+5&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

[**JOSHUA 6:15-27**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%206&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. Vv16-19:What was the army to do (and not to do). How do you think they feel about these instructions? In a spiritual battle such as this (it is clearly not a battle fought with weapons and muscle), what is most important?
3. *“But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it.”* These are items that have religious significance. Why is it important to keep away from these things? What do the Israelites learn about God from these instructions? In what way can this be relevant to you?
4. *“But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho—and she lives among the Israelites to this day.”* Rahab was a prostitute from Jericho who helped save the 2 Israelite spies (see Chapter 2). Why was she given such prominence (see Matthew 1:5 and Hebrews 11:31)? What do you learn about God?
5. What do you think is the most important element in Joshua’s victory over Jericho? Write down a prayer in response.

# Saturday

[**JOSHUA 6:15-27**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joshua%206&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

##### SPIRITUAL BATTLES

*“Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.”*

The bible uses the experience of the Jews as a metaphor for the Christian life. Egypt represents our slavery to sin. The Promised Land represents our inheritance through our Lord Jesus Christ. When we become Christians by accepting Jesus as our Saviour we are circumcised—In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ ([Colossians 2:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians%202&version=NIV))—and given a new identity; we are no longer slaves to sin, but alive to God.

Just as the Passover reminded the Israelites of how God delivered them from Egypt, it was during the Passover festival when Jesus became God’s Passover Lamb, sacrificed on the cross for the sins of many.

And so just as Joshua prepared the Israelites to enter the Promised Land, circumcising them and celebrating the Passover, so too we as Christians owe it all to God as we claim his promises of victory over sin and death.

In the same way, the difference between victory and defeat is God. It doesn’t matter how immovable the walls are, God can send them tumbling down.

The real problem for Israel is not the battles that await them; it is that there is an impenetrable wall between them and God. The sin of unbelief and rebellion resulted in God rejecting them and that generation died in the wilderness, never tasting the fruit of the Promised Land.

As that generation died, God moved to renew his relationship with the new generation, led by Joshua. Having learned the bitter lesson of their forefathers, this generation is anxious to be on God’s side.

*“Whatever you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. Just as we fully obeyed Moses, so we will obey you. Only may the Lord your God be with you as he was with Moses. Whoever rebels against your word and does not obey it, whatever you may command them, will be put to death. Only be strong and courageous!”* (Joshua 1:16-18)

The obstacles that matter are the ones that prevent us from enjoying the presence of God. The battles we face in overcoming sin and temptation are ultimately spiritual battles; we will win only with God on our side. When we fail, when we disobey, when we do not follow his instructions, when we open ourselves to the dark forces of evil, we need to return to God, not run away from him. And it is repentance and faith that will allow God to restore us back into fellowship with him, and allow us to go forward in our walk with 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.