**TIME ALONE WITH GOD**

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 and Tuesday

[**REVELATION 21:1-8**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2021&version=NIV)

Remember this is your time alone with God. It is a time to tell God what is on your mind (thinking back over the past day), listen to him speak to you (reading and meditating on a bible passage), and finally, to respond to him (prayer). The questions are there to help you do this. Ignore them if they do not help. If your time is limited, I suggest that you don’t do everything in one go but spread them over the two days.

1. Take time to be quiet so you can focus on your time alone with God. Recall and briefly write down any significant things that happened or occupied you during the past day. Share with God what you thought or felt. Pray also for those he has laid on your heart.
2. Read [REVELATION 21:1-8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2021&version=NIV). Write down what you think the passage is about and what it says to you. Feel free to use the questions in “Further Thoughts” to help you think over the text.
3. What is God saying to you? Write down a prayer in response.

**Further Thoughts**

1. *“I am making everything new!”* What happened to the original creation (see Revelation 20:11)? Why does it have to “pass away”? Does anything of the original creation survive?
2. *“I am making everything new!”* Jerusalem was the capital city of Israel in those days. It was where the Temple was situated. What does it represent? What then is the new Jerusalem? Where does it come from? What do you think is the significance of the imagery of the new Jerusalem as a bride?
3. *“I am making everything new!”* Following from chapter 20, when Satan and his followers, and “anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life,” are consigned to the lake of fire, new beginnings now take place. What are the characteristics of life in this new world that God has created for his people? Which of these is most significant for you?
4. *“It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.”* To start right, to start on a new footing, the old had to be banished, destroyed, replaced. The “remnant”, those of us whose names are written in the book of life, are the only ones remaining from the old order; but God suggests that we may be thirsty for the water of life. What do you think “thirsty” suggests? What do you think happens when we drink the water of life?
5. *“Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.”* “Those who are victorious” is that phrase repeated in the Letters to the Seven Churches, “he that overcomes”. How is it that we could overcome? What is to be our destiny?
6. *“This is the second death.”* What is the destiny of those who refused Jesus’ offer of salvation, who would not overcome, but remain in their sin?

# Wednesday and Thursday

[**REVELATION 21:9-21**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2021&version=NIV)

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1. Take time to be quiet so you can focus on your time alone with God. Recall and briefly write down any significant things that happened or occupied you the past day. Share with God what you thought or felt. Pray also for those he has laid on your heart.
2. Read [REVELATION 21:9-21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2021&version=NIV). Write down what you think the passage is about and what it says to you. Feel free to use the questions in “Further Thoughts” to help you think over the text.
3. What is God saying to you? Write down a prayer in response.

**Further Thoughts**

1. *“Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.”* What do you think this new Jerusalem represents?
2. What would the names of the 12 tribes of Israel, and the names of the 12 apostles, on the gates and on the foundations of the city imply?
3. What do you think the use of these materials as the building blocks of the city, described either as precious or pure, imply about this city?

# Friday and Saturday

[**REVELATION 21:22-27**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2021&version=NIV)

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1. Take time to be quiet so you can focus on your time alone with God. Recall and briefly write down any significant things that happened or occupied you the past day. Share with God what you thought or felt. Pray also for those he has laid on your heart.
2. Read [REVELATION 21:22-27](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2021&version=NIV). Write down what you think the passage is about and what it says to you. Feel free to use the questions in “Further Thoughts” to help you think over the text.
3. What is God saying to you? Write down a prayer in response.

**Further Thoughts**

1. *“I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.”* What does this imply about the new Jerusalem, the bride of the Lamb?
2. *The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.* While the inhabitants will walk by the light of the glory of God, they will bring splendour, glory and honour to the city. What would you understand about the contribution of the people of God to this new Jerusalem?
3. *“Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.”* What will characterise the life of the city?

1. What do you think life will be like in the new Jerusalem? How do you feel about it?

# Sunday

**I AM MAKING EVERYTHING NEW!**

*“Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.”*

Can you imagine living in a world where God is the prevailing Spirit? John describes it in this way: “I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.”

God is the God of love, of goodness, of righteousness, of compassion, of mercy and grace. Can you imagine a world where these qualities permeate every aspect of life? He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

Can you imagine your body bursting with health and vitality, your relationships bring you joy, your memories are full of beauty and wonder, and you actually have the capacity and resources to bring into fruition the ideas in your head? Our life will be built on that which is precious and pure.

Lest you think that in time everything will become boring, with the same emotions, the same results and the same bright colours, John tells us that the splendour, glory and honour of the nations will be brought into the city. This is not going to be a life where God determines everything and we are but players in the stories he tells. The story of man will still go on, but far, far, better.

If all these thoughts excite you, realise that they are only your imagination; God’s reality will be far more wonderful.

*“Those who are victorious (he who overcomes) will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.”*

1. Review the answers/thoughts you wrote down in the past week. Read the short sharing above. Does it add anything to your own thoughts?
2. What is God saying to you? Write down a prayer in response.