

NEED SOME FRESH IDEAS ABOUT HOW TO SPEND TIME WITH GOD?

BELOW ARE A FEW IDEAS FROM
THE RED ROCKS CHURCH STAFF

A good way to connect with God when I feel far from Him is to do the last thing I know He asked me to do. One step of obedience in the right direction will take you miles past a thousand other surface things to pretend you're close to God. Pretending is exhausting, so just do that one real honest step of obedience—whether it is to start doing something, stop doing something, change that relationship, call a friend to confess something—do the hard thing and you will realize God has been right there with you the whole time waiting.

I love to walk to the park by my house, either with some worship music on my headphones or nothing at all, and look up at the sky. I think of how incredible it is that a God that made all of this is still interested in me and cares more about me than anyone I have ever met.

I like to grab my Bible and think back to a time when God spoke to me through His word; then I re-read that passage. I'll take out a notebook and write a letter to God; I find that it helps me not get sidetracked as easy. This will typically turn into playing some music and raising my hands in worship to Him.

If I really need to get away from it all and I feel far away from God, I will close the door, turn off the light, get on my knees to pray, and enjoy the comfort of His presence.

Lately, I've been reading the Bible from start to finish. It's like when you learn the life story and background of someone, you're able to be a better friend and really love on them more. For me, it's been fun reminding myself of all these intense stories in the Old Testament and watching the progression of the Israelites, but knowing how the story ends (Jesus!). I'm seeing the full story and heart of God and His faithfulness, which helps me serve and love Him better. After I read for a while, I like to stop and think about what I've read and how I've seen similar characteristics of God in my life, which allows me to ponder how I can make my situations reflect God's glory more.

I've started making a conscious choice (and now it's just second nature) that every time I'm alone driving in my car, I turn off the radio and drive in silence...and I pray. I use the entirety of the time I am driving to just sit with God and talk to Him.

I like to read and write down thoughts of what I think God is saying to me.

When I pray, I like to use the P.R.A.Y.S. structure: Praise and thanksgiving, Repent, Ask (for what I want/need), Your will (God I want your will in my life) Show me (where to go and where not to go...guide me)

I enjoy spending time with friends who are passionate about God.

I like to listen to messages when I work out and drive.

When I need to get alone with God I usually go to the gym or go on a run as the sun is going down with worship music in my headphones.

I like to blast worship music in my house when nobody else is home and walk around praying out loud.

Getting out into His creation and forcing myself to leave my phone behind is good because I NEED to eliminate all possible sources of distractions.

I like to go to a coffee shop or Whole Foods to read and journal.

I'll usually start out reading the Bible on my couch with a cup of coffee, then I'll play some worship music and spend some time there, then I'll get up and pray as I walk. I find walking around and praying out loud allows me to be less distracted.

A tool I use when I pray is the ACTS model: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. I learned this 12 years ago when I was a new believer and still use it!

I strongly encourage prayer lists! On my prayer list I have a column for "leaders & organizations" (America, RRC, etc.) to pray for and special prayer points for them. I then move to the "people" column and have a list of prayer requests from and for other people. The third column is for myself: things I'm working through, dreams, areas of growth.

I love to pray boldly. Mark Batterson wrote in "The Circle Maker" something that has revitalized my prayer time: "God isn't offended by your biggest dreams or boldest prayers. He is offended by anything less. If your prayers aren't impossible to you, they are insulting to God. Why? Because they don't require divine intervention."

I get up before my wife and kid and pray outside their bedrooms for the day, our marriage, and our family. Specifically for health, the future, and my son's love for Jesus.

I like to take the long way to the gym, so I can listen to a full sermon to start the day.

A way that I connect with God is while I am hand washing dishes. It is very relaxing and that is when I can pray and hear from God.

I like to go hiking and fishing in Steamboat Springs. The drive is beautiful and I feel like that is where I see God's beauty the best, where I can feel Him pursuing me, and feel His presence and His peace.

Songwriting is huge for me in how I connect with God.

I connect with the Lord through art so I'll take notes during sermons and then make pieces of art from them with my handwriting.

I'll grab my hammock and hang in it while catching a sunrise to spend time with God. I think Colorado is one of those states in which God really took time creating and showing off His artistry. So the fact that I love exploring Colorado's beauty plays perfectly into spending time with Him alone.

During snowboarding season, I'll go boarding while playing music in my headphones underneath/in my helmet. Connecting with God while freely flying through His creation and worshipping Him while gliding down a mountain is one of my favorite things. It's like He's boarding down those runs with me in person.

I walk trails and listen to worship music. This helps me to feel closer to Him and more connected, without all the distractions.

I've found that putting on tunes and roaming around a busy city area to see lots of people in urban settings allows me to see God in people in a unique way. Sort of makes me experience God's love for them and for myself in a way I don't watching TV or being at the store, etc. It also inspires my creativity to think of things I can do for the Kingdom: projects, music video ideas, helpful solutions to people problems, etc.

Spending time with God can simply be noticing something or someone in your day and saying a quick 5 second prayer. Those short prayers help me feel like I'm hanging out with God throughout the day.

Lately, when I workout to worship music, I've been super in tune with God.

On my days off I have a chair by my window where I like to just sit and be quiet, read my Bible, and journal. There's just something about sitting in that quiet spot that I love.

On most days, I'll sit on my porch (if the weather is good) or in the den. The key for me is the privacy to actually speak (and not look like a crazy person).

I like to "bookend" my days with the Word. When I wake up I make coffee and then sit at the kitchen table with a fresh cup, my Bible, journal, and pen to read and write notes and reflections. Then, when I get into bed at night, I bust my Bible back out to read as many chapters as I can before I'm so tired I fall asleep. It's usually not much but helps bring my day full circle back to God.

I like reading the Bible through from the shortest chapter to the longest. I have a list online with all the word counts. It makes me competitive with myself to read faster and faster!

Motorcycle rides are one of the only ways I feel like I can shut everything out to just pray and hang out. Being in nature and doing hobbies is when I feel the closest to God.

Every few months I like to do a Bible-based study (such as Beth Moore or Jen Hatmaker) to dig deeper into the Word.

I like to go running and either listen to one worship song over and over again, or no music at all to pray.

As a mom with little kids, consistent time with the Bible in hand is hard to find with sleep schedules that change all the time, and just the chaos of the day with littles. One of the things I've surprisingly loved since becoming a mom is memorizing verses of Scripture. This is a new part of my relationship with God, and since starting it I'm amazed at how verses just pop into my head when I need them most. I'm loving this part of my relationship with God because in the midst of craziness, I feel like God's truth is right there for me, even when I don't have a Bible nearby.

As a married couple, one of the best things my husband and I have done is to pray each morning together, for even 5 minutes before the crazy day begins. We try to do this before our feet hit the ground for the day, and we pray for friends and family, concerns and fears, and for the things God lays on our heart. This has honestly been a game-changer for our marriage and it's so awesome to have your spouse know what's on your heart and mind, and then be able to identify the big and small answers to prayers that you've prayed together!

When I'm praying for something I go to my Bible and 3 x 5 cards. Whether it's my own life, my kids, friends, church or the world, I look up any and all verses that pertain to my struggle or burden, write each verse down on a card, and put them all over my house. I'm starting to put them in my office as well.

My dad was a man of prayer and since passing, I've worn his ring every day. It reminds me to pray.

I find that when I'm feeling stale with God I need to mix it up. I buy a new Bible, find a new recording (I use to love listening to The Bible Experience), get new art, or get some 3 x 5 cards.

I like to place shower wall truth reminders (ziploc baggie protected) in my bathroom with who God is on one side & who I am in Christ on the other side.

I have been doing the audio Bible in the morning while I get ready!

As a wife and mother, I find it hard to have my time with the Lord at home. I can look around and instantly see laundry, dishes, dirty rooms, and other "tasks" that need to be done. So for me, I have found leaving the house is best! Park benches and quiet cafes have become my sanctuary. Pulling myself out of an environment where I am so needed and going somewhere where I can relax and just focus on Him is the best!

A great way I have found to start my prayer time is by finding a good devotiona! I'll go look for a devotional book at Barnes & Noble or Amazon; YouVersion also has hundreds of reading plans to choose from that can speak into something you're going through.

I feel closest to God when I'm engaging in conversation with others about Jesus.

I use to jump in my truck and hit a back country road or mountain trail with my Bible on the console till I got to a place I could pray and watch the sun come up. There were times when I'd ride horseback early in the morning through the timber, talking, and praying my favorite Scriptures that were in the small notebook in my shirt pocket. I would stop occasionally to jot down what God was giving me. Those have been some of my favorite times.

A great way I have found to memorize Scripture, for me, is to print off a chapter and place in a sheet protector. I'll then tape the top shut and hang in my shower. This allows me to memorize Scripture every day in an already set apart devoted time.