



Harvest ABC's Lifestyle Handbook

Loving God during Alone Time, with Believers in Small Groups,
and in Corporate Worship

Ephesians 2:11-18

Preparing for Sunday, October 21, 2018

Harvest's Believers Lifestyle Essentials

The ABC lifestyle encourages us to grow in loving God more fully in a unified way. The hope is that we all will get back to the basics as a church and growing in unity as we study God's word together by studying the same verses.

LOVING GOD DURING ALONE TIME is to retreat to a quiet place, in an attitude of surrender and trust, for an unhurried time of communion with God through His Word, prayer and other spiritual disciplines. Biblical Basis: Josh 1:8, 1 Tim 4:7, Ps 91:1, Matt 6:5-6.

LOVING GOD WITH BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN SMALL GROUPS is to gather together, in an environment of love and trust, with a small group of believers who are growing in intimacy with God through the ABC's, in order to spur one another on to love God more fully through sharing, accountability, and prayer. Biblical Basis: Prov 27:17, Heb 10:24, 1 Thes 5:11.

LOVING GOD IN CORPORATE WORSHIP is to gather together as a church family on a weekly basis to worship God and delight in His presence; in song we express our love for Him and through the preaching of the Word we hear His voice. Biblical Basis: Ps 22:22, Heb 10:25, Rom 12:4-5.

The Practice of "Loving God during Alone Time"

There are four key components in the practice of "Loving God during Alone Time" that we encourage each person to do on a daily basis:

PRAY. Settle into God's presence by expressing to Him where you are right now. Ask Him to draw near to you as you draw near to Him.

The following is a suggestion: "Father, my desire is to draw near to You and commune with You during this time. Create in my heart and mind a quietness and rest as I place my burdens and concerns, and confess my sins...

Protect this time from interruption and distractions. Allow this to be more than a discipline, but an encouragement with You where I delight in Your presences as You delight in me. Give me ears to hear Your voice as I read Your Word. Teach me, rebuke me, correct or train me so that I will be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Tim 3:16) Holy Spirit fill me with Yourself, refresh my soul and nourish my spirit. My heart's desire is to enjoy loving intimacy with You now and throughout my day. In Jesus name I pray. Amen."

READ THE SCRIPTURE PASSAGE MEDITATIVELY. Sink into the sermon-based scripture for a number of days, until you have plumbed the depths of it. Use the cross references. Once you have plumbed its depths, move on to another bible passage (i.e. the complementary passage, or one of your own choosing) and sink into that for the remainder of the week.

- Study the passage of scripture to gain an understanding of the context of the passage and the key point(s) of the truth taught in the passage.
- Listen to God's personal word to you through His written Word; attend to and linger over a word/phrase/verse that catches your attention.
- Ask God to show you how this word/phrase/verse connects with your life right now.
- Record what God is saying to you.

RESPOND TO GOD IN PRAYER. Allow your God-led ponderings be a catalyst to prayer, talking to Him about what He has revealed to you. Take time to intercede for your own accountability partners or small group members.

CONTINUE TO MEDITATE ON THIS WORD/PHRASE THROUGHOUT THE DAY. Allow God to further form, shape and apply these words in your life as you go into your day. James 1:23-24

WORK ON THE MEMORY VERSE. It is important to equip yourself with God's word. Joshua 1:8 "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success." If you want to be successful in life Joshua 1:8 makes it clear that success in life come through memorizing and meditating on God's Word.

Ephesians 2:11-18 ESV

One in Christ

11 Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called “the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—

12 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, “alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were “far off” have been brought near “by the blood of Christ.

14 For “he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down “in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility

15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in “ordinances, that he might create in himself one “new man in place of the two, so making peace,

16 and might “reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

17 And he came and “preached peace to you who were “far off and peace to those who were “near.

18 For “through him we both have “access in “one Spirit to the Father.

Ephesians 2:11-18 NLT

Oneness and Peace in Christ

11 Don’t forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called “uncircumcised heathens” by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts.

12 In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope.

13 But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.

14 For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us.

15 He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups.

16 Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

17 He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near.

18 Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

Footnotes

Cross-references

k. Rom 2:26, 28, Col 2:11, 13

l. 1 Cor 12:2, Eph 5:8, Col 3:7

m. Eph 4:18, Col 1:21, Ezck 14:5, Gal 2:13, 4:8

n. Rom 9:4,

o. 1 Thes 4:13, Eph 1:18

p. Eph 2:17, Acts 2:39

q. Col 1:20, Rom 3:25

r. Ps 72:7, Mic 5:5, Zech 9:10, Col 3:15 Luke 2:14

s. Gal 3:28

t. Col 1:21, 22, Rom 7:4

u. Col 2:14, 20

v. Rom 6:4

w. Col 1:20-22, 1 Cor 12:13

x. Isa 57:19

y. Eph 2:13

z. Deut 4:7, Ps 148:14

a. John 14:6

b. Eph 3:12, John 10:7, 9

Alone Time: Journaling

As God speaks to you through His Word write down what is impacting you, what He is saying to you personally and/or your response back to Him.

Scripture Memorization: Ephesians 2:8-10 (ESV)

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9** not a result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Prayer Focus:

That relationships being built through The Breakers would result in repentance and people redeemed.

Alone Time: Optional Complementary Passage

Colossians 2:6-15 English Standard Version (ESV)

Alive in Christ

⁶ Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him,⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits^[a] of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of

deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a

circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,

¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities^[b] and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.^[c]

Footnotes:

- a. Colossians 2:8 Or *elementary principles*; also verse 20
- b. Colossians 2:15 Probably demonic rulers and authorities
- c. Colossians 2:15 Or *in it* (that is, the cross)

Alone Time: Journal

What God is showing me through this passage? How is God's Word convicting me? How is God's Spirit leading me to respond? What did I learn today? How am I different as I go about my day?

Corporate Worship: Sermon Notes

How will what I heard impact my life this week?

Harvest Homes Supplemental: For the week of Oct 7th

Dear Parents,

He's a chip off the old block. Like father, like son. The apple doesn't fall far from the tree. These idioms exist because sons tend to look and behave like their fathers. When it came to Hezekiah and his father, Ahaz, however, the two were far from similar.

When Ahaz was king of Judah, he did not respect God, God's law, or God's prophets. He worshiped idols. Ahaz "did not do what was right in the sight of the Lord his God" (2 Kings 16:2). He led the people away from God, provoking God's wrath and anger.

Hezekiah, on the other hand, "did what was right in the Lord's sight just as his ancestor David had done." Hezekiah destroyed the places of idol worship and cleansed the temple. (See 2 Chron. 29.) The Lord was with Hezekiah, and Hezekiah prospered.

Hezekiah was a faithful king who led the people of Judah to worship God like they were supposed to, but even good kings are sinners. His wealth and success led to pride. How did Hezekiah react when God said everything in his palace would be carried off to Babylon? "Who cares? I'll be dead by then."

Jesus is our faithful King who never sinned. Check out some of these definitions for the word *faithful*: "strict or thorough in the performance of duty"; "true to one's word, promises, or vows"; "steady in allegiance or affection"; "loyal"; "constant"; "reliable, trusted, or believed"; "adhering or true to fact, a standard, or an original"; "accurate."

Jesus completed His work—the redemption of sinners. He said on the cross, "It is finished!" (John 19:30). Jesus is faithful over God's house as a Son. (Heb. 3:6) His obedience is steadfast. (Isa. 50:4-10) "Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8). One day Jesus will return to make all things the way they are supposed to be. (Rev. 1:1-6)

Hezekiah prayed that God would save His people from their enemies so that everyone would know that He is the one true God. God answered Hezekiah's prayer. Jesus also prayed for His people to be saved. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus brought glory to God by rescuing people from sin and death.

Help your kids see that Jesus is the greater Hezekiah. Hezekiah interceded for his people to ask God to save them from their enemies, but Hezekiah was a sinner and needed to be saved himself. Jesus was sinless and He interceded for His people to save us from sin and death.

Check this session's Activity Page and Big Picture Card as well as the Gospel Project for Kids Family App for ways to interact with the Bible content this week.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

Babies and Toddlers

- There is one true God.
- Hezekiah trusted in God.
- Hezekiah asked God to keep His people safe.
- There is no one like God.

Preschool

- How many gods are there? There is one true God.
- God answered Hezekiah's prayer.

Kids

- How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.
- God answered Hezekiah's prayer.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE

Hebrews 1:1-2