



# Harvest ABC's Lifestyle Handbook

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

Ephesians 2:19-22

Preparing for Sunday, October 28, 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 2:19-22 ESV

**19** So then you are no longer <sup>d</sup> strangers and aliens, [4] but you are <sup>e</sup> fellow citizens with the saints and <sup>f</sup> members of the household of God,  
**20** <sup>g</sup> built on the foundation of the <sup>h</sup> apostles and prophets, <sup>i</sup> Christ Jesus himself being <sup>j</sup> the cornerstone,  
**21** <sup>k</sup> in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into <sup>l</sup> a holy temple in the Lord.  
**22** In him <sup>m</sup> you also are being built together <sup>n</sup> into a dwelling place for God by [5] the Spirit.

## Ephesians 2:19-22 NLV

**19** From now on you are not strangers and people who are not citizens. You are citizens together with those who belong to God. You belong in God's family.  
**20** This family is built on the teachings of the missionaries and the early preachers. Jesus Christ Himself is the cornerstone, which is the most important part of the building.  
**21** Christ keeps this building together and it is growing into a holy building for the Lord.  
**22** You are also being put together as a part of this building because God lives in you by His Spirit.

## Footnotes

[4] 2:19 Or *sojourners*

[5] 2:22 Or *in*

## Cross-references

*d.* Eph 2:12, Heb 11:13, 13:14

*e.* Phil 3:20, Heb 12:22,23

*f.* Gal 6:10

*g.* Jer 12:16, 1 Cor 3:9

*h.* Matt 16:18, Rev 21:14

*i.* 1 Cor 3:11

*j.* Ps 118:22, Isa 28:16

*k.* Eph 4:15, 16

*l.* 1 Cor 3:16, 17

*m.* 1 Pet 2:5

*n.* Eph 3:17, 2 Cor 6:16, 1 Tim 3:15

## **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 God would plant, grow and bless the church in Jamaica.

## Alone Time: Optional Complementary Passage

### A Living Stone and a Holy People

**2** So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.<sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— **3** if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

**4** As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, **5** you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **6** For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

**7** So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone,”<sup>[a]</sup>

**8** and

“A stone of stumbling,  
and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

**9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

**11** Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. **12** Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

#### Footnotes

[a] 1 Peter 2:7 Greek *the head of the corner*

## **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 21th

Dear Parents,

This week, we encountered the curious instructions God gave the prophet Hosea. God sent the prophet Hosea to speak to Israel a message of God's hatred toward sin and of His coming judgment. God also sent Hosea to bring a message of love—a love that never gives up. God used Hosea's own life to show Israel what a never-gives-up kind of love looks like.

God told Hosea to marry a prostitute. He told Hosea that his wife would not be faithful to him. She would give birth to children who were conceived with other men. Still, Hosea obeyed God. He chose Gomer as his wife. Just as God said, Gomer was not faithful to Hosea. She went after other lovers. Can you imagine Hosea's grief each time he found his wife with another man?

It would have been easier for Hosea to throw up his hands and say, "Enough! I'm done with you!" God's people were no different than Gomer. They were spiritual adulterers. Their hearts chased after other lovers. They loved and worshiped idols, people and things that were not the one true God.

It would have been easier for God to throw up His hands and say, "Enough! I'm done with you!" But God's love never gives up. He gave Hosea a love for his wife that compelled him to buy her back from the slave market after all she had done. In the same way, God sought after His unfaithful people even after all they had done. God paid a high price—the life of His Son, Jesus—to bring them back to Himself.

**Hosea's relationship with Gomer reminds us of God's relationship with the people of Israel and with us. Even though God's people are unfaithful and love other things more than they love God, God still loves us. God sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sin and bring us back to Him.**

Help your kids understand what God's amazing love is like and make sure they see that the price God paid to bring us back to Him was Jesus. God gave Hosea a deep love; Hosea was willing to buy back Gomer even after all she had done. God's love is deep, and it never gives up. He goes after His people and loves them back to Himself.

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**

- God loves people.
- God sent prophets to help His people.
- Hosea's life showed Israel how much God loved them.
- Jesus' life shows how much God loves us.

#### **Preschool**

- What is God like? God is merciful and loving.
- God loves people who don't love Him back.

#### **Kids**

- What is God like? God is slow to anger, merciful, and loving.
- God is like Hosea, loving people when they don't deserve it.

### UNIT KEY PASSAGE

#### **Joel 2:13**

