



# Harvest ABC's Lifestyle Handbook

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

Ephesians 3:20-21

Preparing for Sunday, November 18, 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 3:20-21 ESV**

**20** <sup>i</sup> Now to <sup>j</sup> him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, <sup>k</sup> according to the power at work within us,

**21** <sup>l</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

### **Ephesians 3:20-21 NLT**

**20** Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.

**21** Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.

### **Footnotes**

#### **Cross-references**

*i.* Rom 16:25, Jude 24

*j.* 2 Cor 9:8

*k.* Eph 3:7

*l.* Rom 11:36

## **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 3:20-21 (ESV)**

**20** Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, **21** to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

## **Prayer Focus:**

That we as body would prepare our hearts for this upcoming Christmas season. For what the season is truly about. The birth of our Lord and Savior!

## Alone Time: Optional Complementary Passage

### Romans 11:33-36 English Standard Version (ESV)

**33** Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

**34** “For who has known the mind of the Lord,  
or who has been his counselor?”

**35** “Or who has given a gift to him  
that he might be repaid?”

**36** For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

### 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 November 11th

Dear Parents,

The people of the Southern Kingdom of Judah were afraid. They had seen the Assyrians destroy the Northern Kingdom and now they were not sure if they would be able to survive. God called on Jeremiah to speak to the people.

“I chose you before I formed you in the womb; I set you apart before you were born.” These words from Jeremiah 1:5 reveal a Creator who is sovereign, working out everything in agreement with the decision of His will. (Eph. 1:11)

Jeremiah 1:5 ends with a specific call for a man named Jeremiah: “I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

Jeremiah was the son of Hilkiyah the priest. He lived just north of Jerusalem. Jeremiah’s ministry began when God called him. At that time, Josiah was king of Judah. Whom else did God call in the Old Testament? God called Noah to build an ark (Gen. 6); He called Abram to leave his home (Gen. 12:1-4); He called Moses to lead His people out of Egypt (Ex. 3).

Each time God calls someone, He equips him or her to do His work. Like Moses, Jeremiah was hesitant: “Oh no, Lord, God! Look, I don’t know how to speak since I am only a youth” (Jer. 1:6). God assured Jeremiah: “I will be with you” (Jer. 1:8).

God called Jeremiah to be a prophet to Judah. Judah was deep in idol worship and other sins. God’s judgment was coming. Jeremiah’s job was to warn them. God gave Jeremiah two visions. The first—a branch of an almond tree—was a sign that God would keep His promise to send judgment, and He would do it soon. The second vision—a boiling pot—meant that God’s judgment was coming from the north. God would bring the Babylonians from the north as judgment on His people. Then God sent Jeremiah out to announce God’s declaration.

**God had a plan for Jeremiah before Jeremiah was born. God called Jeremiah to share God’s message about sin. In a similar way, God had planned all along to send His Son, Jesus, to show them what God is like and to rescue them from sin.**

Help your kids see God’s love even in the midst of His discipline and help them connect Jeremiah’s ministry to the ministry of Jesus. God called Jeremiah to warn the people of the judgment for their sin. Jesus also came to tell people to turn from their sin. He didn’t just tell them about the punishment, He took the punishment on 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 helps me love Him.
- God gave Jeremiah a message for Judah.
- The people of Judah stopped loving God.
- Jesus told people to love and obey God.

#### **Preschool**

- Why should we obey God? We obey God because He loves us.
- God chose Jeremiah as His messenger.

#### **Kids**

- Why should we obey God? We obey God because He loves us.
- God chose Jeremiah as a prophet to the nations.

### UNIT KEY PASSAGE

**Ezekiel 11:19-20** (Preschool: Ezekiel 11:19)