



Harvest ABC's Lifestyle Handbook

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

1 Kings 8:54-66

Preparing for Sunday, November 25, 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.

1 Kings 8:54-66 ESV

Solomon's Benediction

54 ^u Now as Solomon finished offering all this prayer and plea to the LORD, he arose from before the altar of the LORD, where he had ^v knelt with hands outstretched toward heaven.

55 And he stood and ^w blessed all the assembly of Israel with a loud voice, saying,

56 "Blessed be the LORD who has given rest to his people Israel, according to all that he promised. ^x Not one word has failed of all his good promise, which he spoke by Moses his servant.

57 The LORD our God be with us, as he was with our fathers. ^y May he not leave us or forsake us,

58 that he may ^z incline our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments, his statutes, and his rules, which he commanded our fathers.

59 Let these words of mine, with which I have pleaded before the LORD, be near to the LORD our God day and night, and may he maintain the cause of his servant and the cause of his people Israel, as each day requires,

60 that ^a all the peoples of the earth may know that ^b the LORD is God; there is no other.

61 ^c Let your heart therefore be wholly true to the LORD our God, walking in his statutes and keeping his commandments, as at this day.

Solomon's Sacrifices

62 ^d Then ^e the king and all Israel with him, offered sacrifice before the LORD.

63 Solomon offered as peace offerings to the LORD 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep. So the king and all the people of Israel dedicated the house of the LORD.

64 The same day the king consecrated the middle of the court that was before the house of the LORD, for there he offered the burnt offering and the grain offering and the fat pieces of the peace offerings, because ^f the bronze altar that was before the LORD was too small to receive the burnt offering and the grain offering and the fat pieces of the peace offerings.

65 So Solomon held ^g the feast at that time, and all Israel with him, a great assembly, from ^h Lebo-hamath to ⁱ the Brook of Egypt, before the LORD our God, seven days. [3]

66 On the eighth day he sent the people away, and they blessed the king and went to their homes joyful and glad of heart for all the goodness that the LORD had shown to David his servant and to Israel his people.

Footnotes

[3] 8:65 Septuagint, Hebrew *seven days and seven days, fourteen days*

Cross-references

u. 2 Chr. 7:1

v. 2 Chr. 6:13

x. Josh 21:45 23:14

y. Deut 31:6, Josh 1:5, 1 Sam 12:22

z. Ps 119:36

a. 1 Kgs 8:43, 8:60

b. Deut 4:35, 39

c. 2 Kgs 20:3, 1 Kgs 11:4, 15:3, 14

d. 2 Chr 7:4-10

e. Erza 6:16, 17

f. 2 Chr 4:1

g. Lev 23:34

h. Num 13:21 34:8

i. Num 34:5, 2 kgs 24:7

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 pray for the church members who are ill. That God's merciful hand would heal them.

Alone Time: Optional Complementary Passage

Psalm 119:1-8 English Standard Version (ESV)

Your Word Is a Lamp to My Feet

Aleph

119 Blessed are those whose way is blameless,

who walk in the law of the LORD!

2 Blessed are those who keep his testimonies,

who seek him with their whole heart,

3 who also do no wrong,

but walk in his ways!

4 You have commanded your precepts

to be kept diligently.

5 Oh that my ways may be steadfast

in keeping your statutes!

6 Then I shall not be put to shame,

having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.

7 I will praise you with an upright heart,

when I learn your righteous rules.

8 I will keep your statutes;

do not utterly forsake me!

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 18th

Dear Parents,

Shortly after God had rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, He made a covenant with them at Mount Sinai. The terms of the covenant are found in Exodus 19.

God said through Moses, "If you will listen to Me and carefully keep My covenant, you will be My own possession out of all the peoples, ... and you will be My kingdom of priests and My holy nation" (vv. 5-6). God's people responded, "We will do all that the LORD has spoken."

But the people did not do all that the Lord had spoken. The people had God's law, but they were not able to obey Him because of the sinfulness of their hearts. God punished His people for their unfaithfulness, eventually sending the Northern Kingdom into exile. But God was faithful; He preserved two tribes, keeping His promise to establish David's house forever.

The Israelites in Jeremiah's day broke the covenant just like their ancestors before them. The prophet Jeremiah told about a new covenant. He prophesied about a coming day when God would forgive sin and write His law on the hearts of His people. This prophecy is fulfilled in Jesus. Jesus did not come to get rid of the law. (See Matt. 5:17.) Through His sinless life, Jesus fulfilled the demands of the old covenant.

Jeremiah told about a day when God would forgive sin and change people's hearts. Jesus made these words come true. God forgives our sin through His Son, Jesus. He changes us and gives us power through His Spirit to obey His commands.

Help your kids understand that obedience only comes from a heart changed by God and it is always a response to God's goodness and love for us.

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.
- People do not always love and obey God.
- God made a new promise to forgive His people.
- God sent Jesus to forgive His people forever.

Preschool

- Why should we obey God? We obey God because He loves us.
- God promised a better covenant.

Kids

- Why should we obey God? We obey God because He loves us.
- God promised a new and better covenant.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE

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