



# Harvest ABC's Lifestyle Handbook

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

Ephesians 4:11-13

Preparing for Sunday, February 3, 2019

## 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 4:11-13 ESV**

**11** And <sup>m</sup> he gave the <sup>n</sup> apostles, the prophets, the <sup>o</sup> evangelists, the <sup>p</sup> shepherds [3] and teachers, [4]

**12** <sup>q</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for <sup>r</sup> building up <sup>s</sup> the body of Christ,

**13** until we all attain to <sup>t</sup> the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, <sup>u</sup> to mature manhood, [5] to the measure of the stature of <sup>v</sup> the fullness of Christ,

### **Ephesians 4:11-13 NLT**

**11** Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers.

**12** Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.

**13** This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

### **Footnotes**

[3] 4:11 Or *pastors*

[4] 4:11 Or *the shepherd-teacher*

[5] 4: 13 Greek *to a full-grown man*

### **Cross-references**

*m.* 1 Cor 12:5, 6

*n.* 1 Cor 12:28

*o.* Acts 21:8, 2 Tim 4:5

*p.* Jer 3:15, Acts 20:28

*q.* 2 Cor 13:9

*r.* Eph 4:16, 29

*s.* 1 Cor 12:28

*t.* Eph 4:5

*u.* Heb 5:14

*v.* Eph 1:23

## **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 4:15 ESV**

**15** Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

## **Prayer Focus:**

Please pray for the elders and staff as they plan the steps of communication to us as a body. That we as a body will hear from the men that God has appointed.

## **Alone Time: Optional Complementary Passage**

Romans 12:6-8 ESV

**6** Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; **7** if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; **8** the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

## **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 January 27<sup>th</sup>

Dear Parents,

Some time after the temple's foundation was laid, the work stopped. With the encouragement of the prophets Haggai and Zechariah, God's people resumed the work of rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem. Approximately 15 years had passed without progress.

At this time, Darius was king of Persia. The Persian Empire was vast, so Darius appointed governors over the provinces. A man named Tattenai watched over the province that included the land of Judah.

Tattenai noticed the work of God's people, and he was concerned. He sent a letter to King Darius. "Is this allowed?" he asked. "The people say that King Cyrus said they could rebuild the temple and the city. Please investigate this matter."

King Darius did investigate, and Cyrus's decree was located in the Babylonian records. Darius instructed Tattenai to allow the people to rebuild the temple and the city. God had turned the heart of the king for His people's favor. (See Prov. 21:1; Ezra 6:22.) The people completed the temple. They dedicated it joyfully and observed the Passover.

God declared in Haggai 2:9 that the glory of this second temple would be greater than the first. This prophecy was fulfilled by the presence of the Messiah, the Son of God. Jesus said that He is greater than the temple. (Matt. 12:6)

God's people rebuilt the temple so they would have a place to worship God. Years later, God sent His Son, Jesus, to be with His people. Now God dwells not in the temple, but directly with His people. Because of Jesus, we don't need a temple anymore.

Help your kids see that in Christ, we find the substance of which the temple was a shadow. The Lord was not confined to a building, yet deity lives fully in Christ. (See Col. 2:9.) Jesus is our High Priest. He entered the most holy place for us. (Heb. 6:19-20) The priest offered the blood of animals, but Christ offered His own blood once and for all. (Heb. 9:25-26) He gives us access to the throne of grace. (Heb. 10:19-22)

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 us obey Him.
- God helped His people rebuild the temple.
- Darius wrote a letter to help God's people.
- Because of Jesus, we can worship God anywhere.

#### **Preschool**

- How can we obey God? We trust God to help us obey Him.
- God helped His people rebuild the temple.

#### **Kids**

- How can we obey God? We trust God to give us strength to obey Him.
- God helped His people rebuild the temple.

### **UNIT KEY PASSAGE**

Daniel 2:20-21 (Preschool: Daniel 2:20)

### **NEXT WEEK**

"Anticipating the Coming King" (Isaiah 1:1-10)