

14 DAYS TO HEARING GOD

STARTER GUIDE

Intimate Prayer Prompts with the Father



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How This Guide Works

You commit to being quiet & listening to God for 10 minutes a day for 14 days. They do not have to be consecutive days. Decide up front which 14 days works best for you (for example, every day for 2 weeks, Mondays and Thursdays for 7 weeks, etc.). Your decision up front keeps it from slipping through the cracks of our busy lives.

Remember to turn off your phone, and remove any other distractions.

Each day's content provides a prayer focus. Some days have supplemental material as well.

Most days have very little reading. But on those with more content, if you're pressed for time, you can break it up over a few days.

After you've read the prayer prompt, pray the prayer and set a timer for 10 minutes.

Then be quiet and just listen. Write down what you get. It doesn't matter if you think it's God or not. Just write down your thoughts. You will learn to discern what's God and what's not.

Keep this habit going.

Give yourself grace. Nothing bad happens if you miss a day, just pick it back up the next day. But I would ask that if you're going to do this, commit to it and protect that time, to the degree it depends on you.

I pray you will have some amazing time with the Lord and be transformed by what you hear.

Are you ready? Let's do this!

Day 4 - Gratitude Is a Game-Changer

Think of the worst thing going on in your life right now. These “worst things” typically fall into two categories. Pick the one you’re dealing with (usually one or the other, not both).

1. A Difficult Situation. This could be a difficult boss or co-worker, financial problems, car problems, washing machine died, etc. Thank God for this situation. I know this seems like the dumbest thing ever. But trust the process.

Pray: *Lord, thank you for _____
in my life right now. What are you wanting to teach me in this?*

2. A Bad Thing. This is the serious stuff. A child or loved one died. You’re suffering from depression and suicidal thoughts. Abuse. You or a loved one is battling cancer. Hospice has been called in. Trauma happened. You wouldn’t thank God for this. But you can thank God for being with you in the middle of it. Know that he is with you, whether you feel it or not.

Pray: *Lord, thank you for being with me in the middle of this disaster,
_____, right now.
I’m dying inside. Thank you that you’re with me even when I don’t feel you.
You are good and I trust you, even in the middle of this.*

Then be quiet for 10 minutes. Listen to the Lord. Listen to your heart. What do you hear? What do you feel? Write it down.

Day 5 - Pray Blessing over Someone to Forgive

Doh! I know. This is a hard one. Forgiving someone doesn't mean letting them off the hook. It's not pretending they didn't do evil to you. **It's coming to a place where they are not the evil they did to you.** You've completed the forgiveness *process* (it's not an *event*) when you can **honestly pray blessing over them without cringing.** And, yes, you can (and you should!) **set healthy boundaries** with that person so they can't hurt you again. (Sometimes that means calling law enforcement.)

So think of someone who's wronged you. Think of something, large or small, that would be a blessing to them. If this is hard, it could be something as small as their car not breaking down. (If they did something horrible to you, rape, abuse, etc., maybe it's healing their pain and wounding that causes them to hurt people. Maybe it's God bringing justice so they can be confronted with their sin and the corresponding opportunity to repent.)

Pray: *Lord, I pray that you would bless* _____ *<say the name>*
in this way _____ *<say the thing>*.

Take a deep breath, and be quiet for 10 minutes and listen to the Lord and to your heart. What does the Lord say to you? What do you feel? Write it down.

Day 6 - Your Image of God

We often hold many false views of God. Here's a short list of 9. Do any of these resonate?

An Irrelevant God:

1. Myth—will you religious people get over it already?
2. Absent Creator—spun up the world like a top and now he's on holiday.
3. Kindly Grandfather—really nice but doesn't really get life today.

A Performance God:

4. Santa Claus—he brings me presents if I'm good.
5. Demanding Parent—I can never do enough to gain approval.
6. Zeus—just waiting for me to step out of line to zap me with a lightning bolt.
7. Commander-In-Chief—I salute and follow the rules with no emotional attachment.

An Entitlement God:

8. ATM—I go to him when I need something, and don't think about him otherwise.
9. Insurance salesman—got my fire insurance; I can live however I want now. Thank you very much, Jesus, see you in heaven.

These are all common, false views of God. But **Jesus died to be our Lover-King**. And that view of God has at its core something all the others lack---intimacy. **Intimacy = Into Me See**. It can be scary. But that's where God wants to be in your life. Intimate. All false views of God are designed to avoid that very thing---let me do something else to check my "God" box, anything but scary, vulnerable, threatening intimacy!

Pray: Lord, show me how I see you. Am I afraid of intimacy with you? Show me any barrier between me and intimacy with you.

Then be quiet and listen for 10 minutes. What do you hear? What do you feel? Write it down.

Day 10 – Family Pain

God totally gets this. Song of Songs starts out with dysfunctional family pain:

Do not stare at me because I am dark, because I am darkened by the sun. My mother's sons were angry with me and made me take care of the vineyards; my own vineyard I have neglected. (Song of Songs 1:6)

“Being dark” meant sun tanned. Rather than a symbol of beauty like today, in that ancient culture it meant you were laboring outside all day---a symbol of lowly position in society. The point is she was **subjected to unhealthy demands from her own family, and the expense of her own needs**. Have you lived this? *Song of Songs* was written for you.

Jesus lived this too. His own family didn't understand him (John 7:5). At one point even his own mother came to take him home because **he was embarrassing the family** (Matthew 12:46-50). His hometown, basically everyone he grew up with, rejected him (Mark 6:1-6).

As the eldest son, after Joseph died (see Matthew 13:55-56), it would've been his responsibility to provide for the family. Instead, from their point-of-view, he goes galivanting around the country-side as an itinerant rabbi. **Do you suppose his younger brothers, who then had to pick up the slack, resented him?**

Sorry for the longer prompt today, but I thought it was important to show you that **Jesus totally understands your family pain, through his own experience**, and he wants to heal it.

Pray: Lord, thank you for my family. Show me the good I received from my family, and show me the pain you want to heal. Lord, replace the lies I learned growing up and speak your truth to me.

Then be quiet and listen for 10 minutes. What came up? Write it down.

Day 13 - Turning Negatives into Positives

Today we're learning a simple life hack for discovering what God wants to do in your life right now.

On a sticky note, or a scrap of paper you can throw away—NOT in this guide—write down your biggest problem right now. It could be a circumstance in life you're facing or something internal you've been struggling with. Whatever just popped up first when you read that last sentence.

Ok, now ask the Holy Spirit, *Lord, show me what's the opposite of _____ <that thing you just wrote down, say it out loud>*.

Then be quiet and listen for 10 minutes. HINT: The opposite will be something good, something positive. Write down (in this guide) what you got. That's what God is wanting to work in your life during this season.

Now crumble up and throw away that first piece of paper. Burn it if you want. Practice focusing on the positive thing you just got. Write it on your hand if you have to. When you're tempted to focus on that negative thing, intentionally choose to focus instead on the positive thing instead.

(Credit where credit is due—I learned this trick from Graham Cooke, <https://www.brilliantbookhouse.com/products/living-your-truest-identity>, not an affiliate link.)

Day 14 - The Next Season

You made it! Good job!

We've **covered a lot of ground and asked a lot of tough questions** over these 14 days. We've gone to **some scary places** that not everyone would dare to go. **But you went there!** That was **brave and courageous**. Big kudos! Look at all the places you went:

Day 1: Be still and just listen.

Day 2: Hearing your heart.

Day 3: "Can't I just have this one thing?"

Day 4: Gratitude.

Day 5: Praying blessing over someone to forgive.

Day 6: Your image of God.

Day 7: Personality secret.

Day 8: Secret fear.

Day 9: Secret passion.

Day 10: Family pain.

Day 11: Church hurt.

Day 12: Convenience inhibiting relationship with God.

Day 13: Replacing existing negatives with the positives God has.

We may have pulled off some scabs or re-opened some wounds that need to be addressed more fully. Some of the places we went can't be resolved in 10 minutes of silence. And that brings us to this final day.

For which of these does God want to bring greater healing and freedom into your life? I encourage you to listen for where the Lord wants to go deeper with you in this next season.

So let's finish on this last day with where we began on Day 1:

Pray: Speak Lord, for your servant is listening. Where do you want to take me deeper into healing and freedom over the next season?

Then be quiet and listen for 10 minutes. Write down what you hear and feel.

Do You Want to Go Deeper?

My wife Janet & I want to help you **uncover the call of God on your life, without wasting decades in burned out frustration doing the wrong things.** We call it your Guiding Vision.

Going through this starter guide, you've learned that (1) **God wants to talk to you**, and (2) **you can hear him.**

What if God wants to talk to you about ...

The passion he put in your heart?

Restoring his call on your life?

Partnering with you for your next season?

What if you don't have to feel unworthy, disqualified, or defeated?

What if partnering with God feels confident, excited, and hopeful?

What if the Holy Spirit has a Guiding Vision for your unique life?

We have a step-by-step process for
identifying & stepping into your personal Guiding Vision
with the Holy Spirit. Check it out here:

IdentityInWholeness.com/GuidingVision

