

SAMPLE WAYS THAT PSALM 23 MIGHT GUIDE YOUR PRAYER TIME WITH JESUS:

"The LORD is my Shepherd, I have everything I need..."  
*Jesus, as I come into that conversation today, as I try and solve that problem, as I try to steward the resources of time and money today, I recognize, that I have everything I need, that I don't need to prove myself or make something happen on my own.*

"He makes me lie down in green pastures, leads me beside still waters..."  
*Jesus, I don't need to feel anxious or afraid or worried about what is upcoming today, because you are leading me to a place of stillness and rest before you. Lead me to a place of quiet trust before you.*

"He leads me in right paths for his name's sake..."  
*Jesus, as I consider the elements of my day, I need your wisdom - lead me in the right paths; help me to make the right decisions...not for my sake, but for your sake, so that the Kingdom of God might be further revealed.*

"Though I walk through the valley of death I fear no evil. For you are with me..."  
*Jesus in the uncertainties before me, in the confusion and disorientation, may I be aware of your nearness. Where I can't see your hand, may I trust your heart.*

"Surely goodness and mercy will follow me..."  
*Jesus, may I be continually grateful for your goodness all around me, may I not be distracted by the trouble in life and miss your gracious and merciful hand. You have not treated me as my sins deserved. Grant me mercy in that meeting, with that problem, in that relationship.*

FURTHER RESOURCES:

Power of a Praying (Husband, Wife, Parent, etc.) series by Stormie Omartian  
Jesus Calling – Sarah Young  
Walking with God – John Eldredge  
  
*"The people who have done the most for God in this world have been early on their knees. He who fritters away the early morning, its opportunity and freshness, in other pursuits than seeking God will make poor headway seeking him the rest of the day. If God is not first in our thoughts and efforts in the morning, He will be in the last place the remainder of the day."* E.M. Bounds

# LEARNING THE TRADE

## Life in Community

Pastor Nathan Carroll

Life as an apprentice of Jesus is deeply \_\_\_\_\_, but it is NOT \_\_\_\_\_.

3 Layers of Engagement in True Spiritual Community:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 10:25)
- How do you \_\_\_\_\_ to gather?  
desire to connect within a "family" OR plan to stick to yourself?  
|-----|
- What is your \_\_\_\_\_ of people?  
reaching out and taking an interest OR polite greetings then scuttling off?  
|-----|
- How do you engage in \_\_\_\_\_?  
encouragement in joining with others OR craving an undisturbed time alone?  
|-----|  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Carving Out Relationships Around \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:44)
- When was the last time you offered to \_\_\_\_\_ for a friend in a casual setting? \_\_\_\_\_
  - When was the last time that something you \_\_\_\_\_ came up in casual conversation? \_\_\_\_\_
  - When was the last time you answered honestly when asked \_\_\_\_\_? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Walking in Regular, Shared \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (Proverbs 27:17)

List the names of people who know what life is actually like for you and have permission to ask you “under the surface” questions.

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List the names of those who have made the same entrustment to you.

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Listening Prayer Question:

“Jesus, what is one practical step towards deeper engagement in true spiritual community that you would have me take this coming season?”

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The Priority of Prayer

Pastor Jeremy Peters

Prayer is simply the name we give to the two-way communication between us and our Master Jesus. **There is no apprenticeship with Jesus without prayer.** There can be religious activity. There can be moral behaviour. There can be external signs that suggest someone is a ‘good’ person. But there is no actual apprenticeship with Jesus being done.

“...the most adequate description of prayer is simply **‘talking to God about what we are doing together.’**” Dallas Willard ~ *The Divine Conspiracy*

“What makes for good \_\_\_\_\_ makes for good \_\_\_\_\_.” Trevor Hudson

PRAYING THE CHARACTER OF JESUS IN YOUR LIFE

Develop a habit of praying that the character of Jesus might be expressed through your life. Things like:

- love

- patience

- wisdom & discernment

- strength

- peace
- humility

- integrity

- communication

- courage

- joy
- forgiveness

- sexual purity

- problem-solving

- leadership ability

QUESTIONS TO ASK JESUS

As you consider your day, these are good questions to ask Jesus:

- Is there anyone you'd like me to encourage (phone, email, coffee)?
- Is there anyone I should be especially sensitive to today? (someone who is experiencing something that is not immediately obvious on the surface)?
- What does my spouse need from me? My kids? What do they need from you?
- How can I best love my neighbours?
- Is there anything I should be aware of/prepared for today?
- Where is the Enemy going to come against me?
- Jesus, how are we doing? Jesus, how am I doing?