

GOING DEEPER

Often we ask ourselves “How do I go deeper in my relationship with Christ?” or “How do I grow my faith in God?” Think about your best friend for a moment. How did you get to be best friends with that person? You hang out with them, learn about them, and talk with them? God is the same way, he wants to hang out with you, teach you about him, and talk with you. We just have to make the first move. There's an easy way of doing this, and it's all based around the word HABITS.

H: Hang time with God

Hanging out with God can happen pretty much anywhere. Yeah we tend to hang out with Him more at youth or at church on Sunday, but it's as simple as just saying “Hey, God, here's what I'm going through today” and praying for a bit. What are some ways you can have hang time with God? (Matt 26:36)

A: Accountability with another believer

Accountability seems like a pretty scary thing, but it's a great way to keep yourself growing with God. Have someone who you can admit your failures to, and who can challenge you to grow deeper in your faith. (Matt 18:15-17) Who is someone you can be accountable with?

B: Bible memorization

The Bible is one of God's main ways of speaking to us. This collection of books written around 2000 years ago is still alive and relevant today. It's a little too long to memorize the whole thing, but here's some good verses to try memorizing. John 3:16, 1st Timothy 4:12, Romans 8:38-39, Psalm 139:14, Psalm 40:4, There's lots more but here's just a little start.

I: Involvement with the church

Jesus asked a lot of times for us to serve the poor, the sick, the widowed, and the body of Christ, (Matt 25:44-45) A great way to grow closer to God, is to serve Him. There's lots of ways to serve him in the church and outside of the church. What are some ways you can think of?

T: Tithing commitment

God asks us to honor him by giving a portion of the money that we make, but it goes deeper than that. Do we trust God? I mean really trust that God will take care of us? Tithing is more than just giving the church money that it needs to do ministry, it's about surrendering control of money to Him. (1st Cor 16:2, 2nd Cor 9:6-9) What if you don't have a job, what are some ways you can honor God with gifts?

S: Study Scripture

Studying scripture is about going deeper than just reading God's word. A good way to do this is a three step process.

Read: Take a chapter or part of a chapter and read once or twice

Think: about what you just read, what were the important points to learn, how does this apply to our life?

Pray: Pray about what you just read, acknowledge what God has shown you in the text, and ask Him to remind you of what you've learned.

A good strategy, is to journal about what you just read. Read a passage, and then write down what you learned from it and what jumped out at you. Try it this week with the letters to Timothy. Each day, read the passage marked below and check it off. Once you've read 2nd Timothy, try doing the same thing with Ephesians or one of the gospels, (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John.)

- ☐ Day 1: 1st Timothy 4:1-16
- ☐ Day 2: 2nd Timothy 1:1-17
- ☐ Day 3: 2nd Timothy 2:1-13
- ☐ Day 4: 2nd Timothy 2:14-26
- ☐ Day 5: 2nd Timothy 3:1-17
- ☐ Day 6: 2nd Timothy 4:1-8
- ☐ Day 7: 2nd Timothy 4:9-22



HABITS: GOING DEEPER

I have a lot more to say about this, but it is hard to get it across to you since you've picked up this bad habit of not listening. By this time you ought to be teachers yourselves, yet here I find you need someone to sit down with you and go over the basics on God again, starting from square one—baby's milk, when you should have been on solid food long ago! Milk is for beginners, inexperienced in God's ways; solid food is for the mature, who have some practice in telling right from wrong. - Hebrews 5:12-14 *The Message*