



Growing Spiritually

As a Sunday School teacher, your daily prayer and Bible study are essential for both you and your students. Daily Bible study and prayer can benefit you as a teacher by: (1) helping your own life to grow spiritually stronger, making you a better role model, and (2) giving you spiritual help for your teaching ministry. If you have a hard time developing a consistent pattern of Bible study and prayer, perhaps the following points will help.

1 Make an Appointment with God

Develop a habit of having your devotions at the same time every day, a time you can be alone with God. Remember, God spoke to Elijah in a still, small voice. (See 1 Kings 19:11-13.) Hearing God speaking is hard if your mind is occupied with the day's activities.

If you begin to have your devotions at the same time each day, this will soon become a normal, yet special, part of your day's schedule. The day may even seem incomplete if you fail to have your time with God. It is a spiritually uplifting habit.

2 Find a "Secret Place"

This may be nothing more than sitting beside a certain window or in a favorite chair during your devotions. In your secret place, you can shut yourself away from the problems and trials of daily life and spend special moments with God.



3 Pray for the Holy Spirit's Guidance

Jesus knew we could not understand His Word as we should by using our minds alone. We need supernatural help to understand spiritual truths. He has provided that help through the Holy Spirit. Before you read God's Word, ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand what it says and how you can apply it to your life. Then be sensitive to the Spirit's direction.

4 Come Just as You Are

Prayer is a privilege God has given us to express our deepest feelings to Him. Talk honestly with God. He knows how you feel. Psalm 139:4 says, "Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord" (NIV). God wants you to come to Him as you are. He understands you because He created you.

5 Incorporate Praise

Prayer is also a time to praise God for who He is. God deserves our praise and adoration. God can do great things in and for us as we praise Him. He commanded the army of Jehoshaphat to let the singers lead them into battle. When they obeyed, they found their enemy completely destroyed. There is power in praise. (See 2 Chronicles 20:20-24.)

6 Include Your Teaching Ministry

As you spend time in prayer, ask God to prepare you for the coming Sunday. Let the Holy

Spirit guide you into a deeper understanding of the truths you teach your students. The Holy Spirit may reveal passages of Scripture that will be useful in teaching your class. Your daily devotions are also an excellent time to pray for each student in your class.

7 Share Your Devotions

Tell your students about new things you have learned from God's Word or a special answer to prayer you have had in your personal devotions. You will be setting a good example of daily

devotions for them to follow. They need to know you practice what you teach.

Personal devotions are a time when you can grow in Christ. Let God speak to you as you in turn speak to Him. Then minister to others through your growing, maturing spiritual life.

Questions for Further Study—

1. Why is it important to have a daily time with God?
2. Where can you find help in understanding the spiritual truths in the Bible?
3. What is one way to find power from God?
4. List some things and some people you should pray for during your daily devotions.



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