

Inquirers' Class

Independent Presbyterian Church
Savannah, Georgia

Spring 2025

IPC Inquirers' Class

Welcome to our Inquirers' Class!

This class is designed to introduce you to the history, doctrine, practice, and people of our church. We trust that it will prove to be challenging and edifying for you. All resources for the course will be available and are also found at www.ipcsav.org.

For those interested in joining IPC, the following applies:

1. ***Instruction*** – Attend the classes during the Sunday School hour. If you miss a class, watch each of the seven sessions at www.ipcsav.org. From the drop-down menu, click on About → Inquirers' Class.
2. ***Interview with Rev. Johnson prior to joining IPC*** – Schedule an appointment through the church office by calling or emailing the senior minister's secretary at (912) 421-8100/mmullinix@ipcsav.org.
3. ***Interview with Session*** – during the last class on May 11
4. ***Vows*** before congregation – following last class on May 11, Sunday, 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Non-Communing Children:

You are not required to take this class in order to join the church. However, many of our baptized youth have found it helpful to attend before making a profession of faith. Your path to joining is slightly different. Items #2 & 3 are as follows:

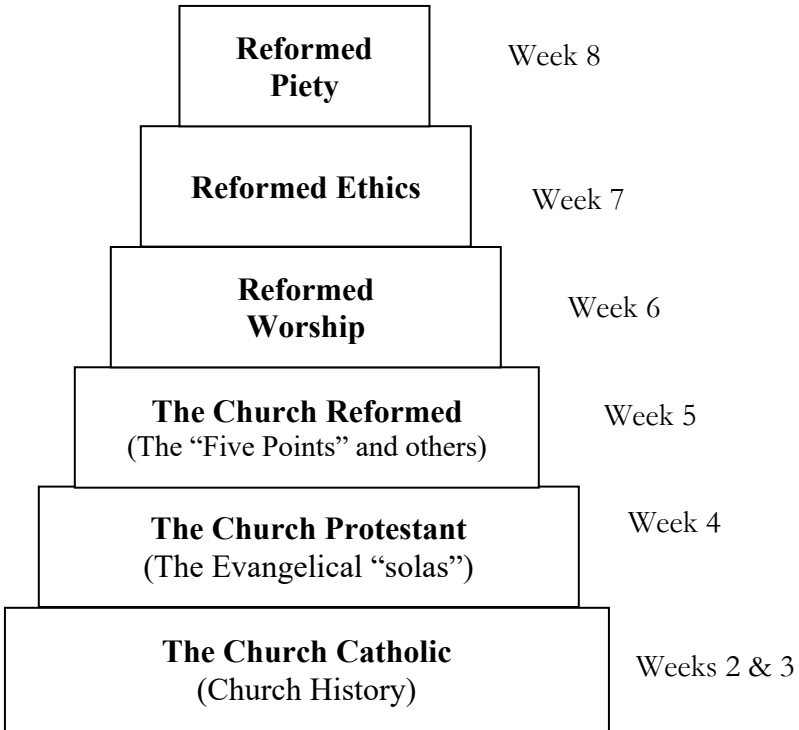
2. Interview with committee made up of a minister, your Sunday School teacher, and your Care Group elder.
3. Interview with Session as appointed. We will need to schedule this.

Inquirers' Class Outline

Session 1 March 9	Church Membership
Session 2 March 16	The Church Catholic: Church History – 1 <i>Joshua Espinosa, Jacob Fuhrman</i>
Session 3 March 23	The Church Catholic: Church History – 2 <i>Tim Shaw</i>
March 30	No Inquirers' Class- Attendees will visit a Sunday School class
April 6	No Inquirers' Class- Attendees will visit a Sunday School class
Session 4 April 13	The Church Protestant: The Evangelical Faith <i>Stephen Jackson & Jimmy Dugal</i>
Session 5 April 20	The Church Reformed: The Reformed Faith <i>Alex Sutherland & Kenneth Crowe</i>
Session 6 April 27	Reformed Worship <i>Jane Boatright & Lucy Biemiller</i>
Session 7 May 4	Reformed Ethics <i>Evan Gear & Matthew Burt</i>
Session 8 May 11	The Nurturing of Reformed Piety

Interview with Session/join IPC (May 11 or date TBD)

Reformed Protestantism



Our Pyramid of Truth

“I’m first a Christian, next a catholic, then a Calvinist, fourth a paedobaptist, and fifth a Presbyterian. I cannot reverse the order.”

— John “Rabbi” Duncan (1796-1870)

Inquirers' Class Supplemental Reading List

1. **History of the Church**
Carlson, *Our Presbyterian Heritage*
Hannula, *Trial and Triumph, Stories from Church History*
Houghton, *Sketches from Church History*
Noll, *Turning Points, Decisive Moments in the History of Christianity*
Gonzalez, *The Story of Christianity*
Ferguson, *In the Year of Our Lord*

2. **Apostles' Creed**
J. I. Packer, *Growing in Christ*
Horton, *We Believe: Recovering the Essentials of the Apostles' Creed*
Sproul, *Renewing Your Mind: Basic Christian Beliefs You Need to Know*
McGrath, *"I Believe": Exploring the Apostles' Creed*

3. **Evangelical Protestantism**
Blanchard, *Right with God*
Stott, *Basic Christianity*
Bainton, *Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther*
Johnson, *The Case for Traditional Protestantism*

4. **The Reformed and Presbyterian Faith**
Palmer, *Five Points of Calvinism*
Packer, *Introductory Essay to John Owens' "The Death of Death in the Death of Christ"*
Sproul, *Chosen by God*
Johnson, *When Grace Comes Home*

5. **Worship and Sacraments**
Tozer, *The Missing Jewel of Evangelicalism*
F. A. Schaeffer, *Baptism*
Murray, *Christian Baptism*
Olds, *Worship That Is Reformed According to Scripture*
Johnson, *Reformed Worship, Contemporary Worship, Worshipping with Calvin and Serving with Calvin*

6. **Sanctification and Christian Ethics**
Pink, *The Ten Commandments*
Packer, *Growing in Christ*
Murray, *Principles of Conduct*
Johnson, *When Grace Transforms: The Character of Christ's Disciples Put Forward in the Beatitudes*
7. **Christian Mission**
Metzger, *Tell the Truth*
Chantry, *Today's Gospel: Authentic or Synthetic?*
Murray, *The Puritan Hope*
8. **Membership**
"Who We Are" (IPC booklet)
Johnson, *Who Needs the Church?*
9. **The Nurturing of Reformed Piety**
M'Cheyne, *Calendar for Daily Readings* (in binder)
First Mornings with God (IVP's "Basic Christian Life" Booklet #9)
Seven Minutes with God (Navigators)
The Family Worship Book, Johnson
When Grace Comes Alive: Living Through the Lord's Prayer, Johnson
Johnson, *Understanding Family Worship*
Johnson, *The Christian Sabbath*

In addition to the above, the *Shorter Catechism* should also be read during our time together.

You may also consult I.P.C. church booklets which touch on these themes:

1. Our Order of Service
2. Who We Are
3. The Church Catholic: Church History I & II
4. The Evangelical Faith
5. The Reformed Faith
6. The Five Points of Calvinism
7. Reformed Worship
8. Reformed Ethics
9. The Nurturing of Reformed Piety

Inquirers' Class

Public Profession of Faith and Solemn Covenant with God and His Church

1. Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and depend upon Him *alone* for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?
3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to serve Christ in His church by supporting and participating in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourself to the government and discipline of the church and promise to further its purity and peace?

Activities Calendar of the Independent Presbyterian Church

(subject to change)

Locations/ changes for all events are listed in the weekly eMessenger and Sunday bulletin

Weekly

Worship Services:

Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Sunday School for all ages
	10:00 a.m.	Worship in Sanctuary
	5:15 p.m.	Pre-service singing in Sanctuary
	5:30 p.m.	Worship in Sanctuary <i>(Pt. Pleasant in the evenings during the summer; Memorial Day to Labor Day)</i>
	6:30 p.m.	Dinner/Fellowship
Wednesday	11:45-12:50	Lunch/Bible Study (Telfair Hall)

Bible Studies:

Tuesday	9:30 a.m.	Women's Bible Study (Telfair Hall)
	7:00 p.m.	iPrimes Bible Study on Zoom (older adults)
	7:00 p.m.	College Bible Study (18 W. Hull Building)
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	IPC Career/Twenties Bible Study (Telfair Hall)

Prayer Meetings:

Tuesday	6:30 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast
---------	-----------	------------------------

Choirs:

Wednesday	5:30 p.m.	Handbell Choir (October-Christmas, February-Easter, adults & H.S.)
	6:30 p.m.	Adult Choir
Sunday	9:25 a.m.	Sunday School Choir (4-5 yr.- olds)
	4:15 p.m.	Youth Choir (6th -12th grades)
	7:00 p.m.	Children's Choir (1st-5th grades)

Youth:

Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	H.S. Gathering (Sept.-May) (Whitaker Street Building)
Sunday	7:00 p.m.	H.S. Small Groups (Whitaker Street Building)
	7:00 p.m.	M.S. Emmaus Road (Whitaker Street Building)

Monthly

Communion		First Sunday of each month
Session	5:30 p.m.	Next to Last Monday
Diaconate	6:00 p.m.	Next to Last Monday

W.O.C. Circles (*see handouts in pocket of notebook for details*)

Yearly

January:

Third Sunday	Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
--------------	-------------------------------

February:

Second Sunday	Heritage Sunday
Third Sunday	Annual Congregational Meeting

February:

World Missions Conference

March/April:

Sunday PM Communion service
Maundy Thursday Service of
Lessons & Psalms
Saturday Pancake Breakfast & Egg
Hunt

May:

Church Wide BBQ

August:

Communion Season/Reformation &
Worship Conference

September:

Third Sunday	Low Country Boil
--------------	------------------

October:

Last Sunday	Reformation Sunday
October 31	Fall Family Festival

December:

Third Sunday	Service of Lessons & Carols
	Christmas Eve Service

Who We Are¹

I. **Independent**

1. No denominational affiliation
2. Independent since 1755

II. **Presbyterian**

1. Reformed heritage
2. Not “fundamentalist”
3. Not charismatic

III. **Church**

1. Tasks: worship & witness
2. Let the church be the church

IV. **Why Us?**

1. Learn the Bible
2. Family support
3. Meaningful worship

¹ See booklets: “Who We Are” and “Our Order of Service.”

The Church Catholic: *Church History*

Modern man is guilty of "chronological arrogance," says C. S. Lewis. The illusion of "progress" leads many to conclude that there is nothing to be learned from the past. Never in history have traditional ideas and values been held in such universal contempt as today, and, one might add, such disastrous results. Moral, spiritual, and social chaos are the legacy of a people who presume that the wisdom of the ages, the lessons of history, may be safely ignored.

Against the "spirit of the age," the church stands unapologetically upon the shoulders of the Apostles, Prophets, the Church Fathers, the great Councils, and centuries of collective wisdom. Through 20 centuries of time the church has grown from a small band in Palestine to a fellowship numbering in the billions found in every corner of this planet. Upon the anvil of history it has hammered out its beliefs and practices. We are the heirs of their efforts, learning and benefiting from both their mistakes as well as successes.

It is hoped that by this introduction to church history you will receive a measure of both wisdom and encouragement, as we see how God has fulfilled His promise to lead His people into "all truth," even as He has led them into "all the world."

Church History

- I. Early Church (30-325)**
Constantine at the Milvian Bridge - 313

- II. Late Antiquity (325-500)**
Augustine's conversion - 387

- III. Middle Ages – Renaissance (500-1500)**
Boniface and the conversion of the Germans - 717

- IV. Reformation (1500-1662)**
Luther and the posting of the 95 Theses - 1517

- V. Enlightenment (1662 - present)**
Descartes doubts all things – 1619-1620

Church History

1C - Christ Risen

- Apostolic Church

1-3C - Early Church

- Apostles Creed
- New Testament canonized
- Mediterranean rim evangelized
- Expansion into:
 - Gaul & Britain (2C)
 - Med. interiors, Ethiopia, India

4C - Edict of Milan (313)

Church Councils

- Nicea (325)
- Constantinople (381)
- Ephesus (431)
- Chalcedon (451)

4-10C - Expansion in Europe

- 5C Ireland, Scotland
- 7C Netherlands
- 8C Germany
- 9C Scandinavia
- 9C & 10C Eastern Europe

Setbacks

- 410 Barbarians sack Rome
- 711 Moslems overrun N. Africa
- 732 Battle of Tours
(Muslims halted in France)

11C - Church Splits (1054)

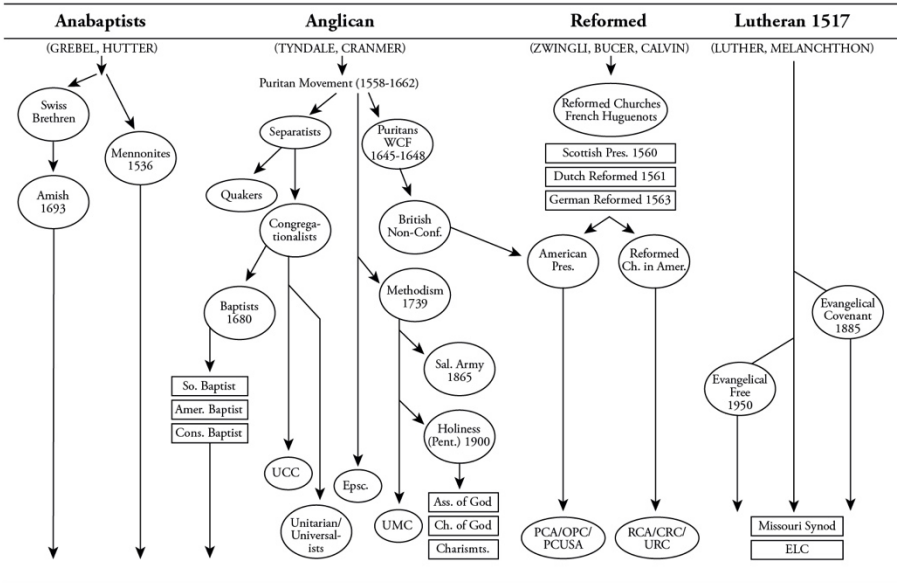
- East - Orthodox
- West - Catholic

11-13C Crusades

14-15C Renaissance

16C Reformation and Counter-Reformation

16C - Reformation



17C - Enlightenment

Descartes, Kant

18C - Evangelical Awakening

Whitfield, Edwards, Wesley

19C - Modern Missionary Movement

Carey, Livingston, Taylor

Modern Liberalism

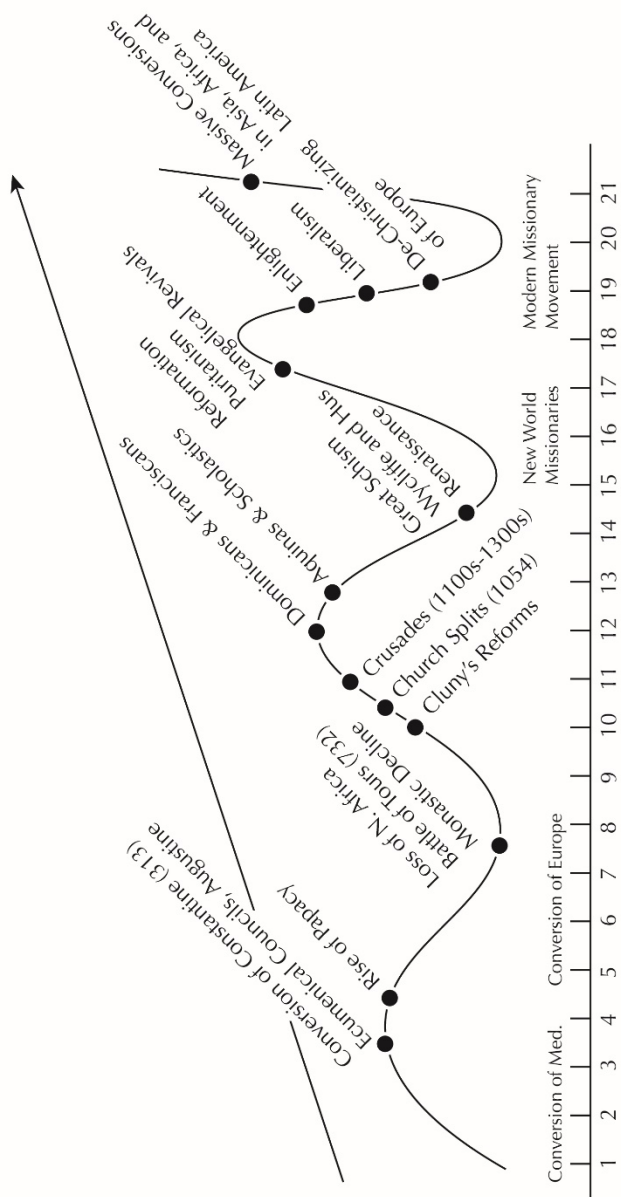
- Schliermacher & liberal theology
- Graf-Wellhausen and higher critical theories

Modern Skepticism

Darwin, Freud, Marx

20C - Western Decline, World Expansion

- Modern-Fundamentalist Debates
- Liberal takeover of denominations
- Evangelical Resurgence
- Church growth in Asia, Africa, & Latin America



The Church Protestant: *The Evangelical Faith*²

The “Solas”

I. Scripture Alone

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. (2 Tim. 3:16)

1. Inspired
2. Inerrant
3. Authoritative
4. Clear
5. Complete

II. Christ Alone

But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God (Heb. 10:12)

1. One Savior
2. One Sacrifice
3. One Mediator

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. (1 Tim. 2:5)

² See booklet “The Evangelical Faith,” pp. 1-17, or see *The Case for Traditional Protestantism*, all.

III. Faith Alone

Yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. (Gal. 2:16)

1. Faith, not works
2. Justification
3. Knowledge, Assent, Trust
4. Works are the fruit of saving faith

IV. Grace Alone

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (Eph. 2:8, 9)

1. Faith is a gift
2. God initiates our salvation

V. God's Glory Alone

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

³⁴ "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?"

³⁵ "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?"

³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

1. Our motive behind the other *solas*
2. Our aim

The Church Reformed:

*The Reformed Faith*³

I. Reformed in Doctrine

1. *Sovereignty* of God (eg. Eph 1:11; Matt 10:29; Rom 8:28)
2. “*Five Points*” of Calvinism
3. *Covenant* theology and unity of the Bible

II. Reformed in Worship

1. Worship “*according to Scripture*”
2. Covenantal understanding of the *sacraments* – Col 2:11

III. Reformed in Piety

1. Distinction between *justification and sanctification*
2. “Third use” of the *law* – Ps. 19:7-14; 119-all; Rom. 8:4; Jn 14:15,21
3. *Ordinary means* of grace: public, private, and family worship

IV. Reformed in Church Government

1. *Representative* government (Ti 1:5; Acts 14:23)
2. *Gathered* church
3. Church *discipline*

³ See booklets: “The Reformed Faith,” pp 19-32 and “The Five Points of Calvinism.”

Reformed Worship⁴

I. Biblical foundation

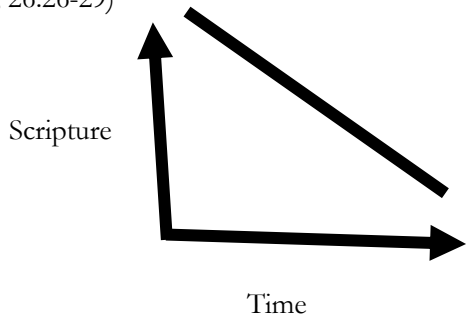
1. John 4:7-24
2. Acts 2:42

I. Theological foundation

1. *Sola Scriptura* (Ex. 20:4; Lev. 10:1-3)
2. *Solus Christus* (John 19:30; 1 Tim. 2:5)
3. *Sola Fide* (Rom. 10:17; John 17:17; 1 Pet. 1:23-25; 1 Pet. 2:2)
4. *Sola Gratia* (John 15:1-5; Acts 1:14, etc.)
5. *Soli Deo Gloria*

III. Elements and personal experience

1. Psalm-singing (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Jas. 5:13)
2. Biblical preaching (1 Tim. 4:13b; Acts 13:15b)
3. Reading (1 Tim. 4:13a; Acts 13:15a)
4. Prayer (1 Tim. 2:1-4; see next page)
5. Sacraments (Matt. 28:19; 26:26-29)



⁴ See *Reformed Worship* and/or *Worshipping with Calvin*; see also booklet or sermon CD, “The Church As It Was Meant To Be.”

Public Prayer

“Full Diet”

I. Praise

II. Confession of sin

III. Thanksgiving

IV. Intercession – 1 Tim. 2:1-4

1. Sanctification of the saints
(Eph. 1:3-23; Phil. 1:3-13;
Col. 1:3-14)

2. Church and its ministry

3. Sick (Jas. 5:14)

4. Civil authorities

5. Christian Mission

5-fold intercession

V. Illumination

VI. Benediction

Reformed Ethics⁵

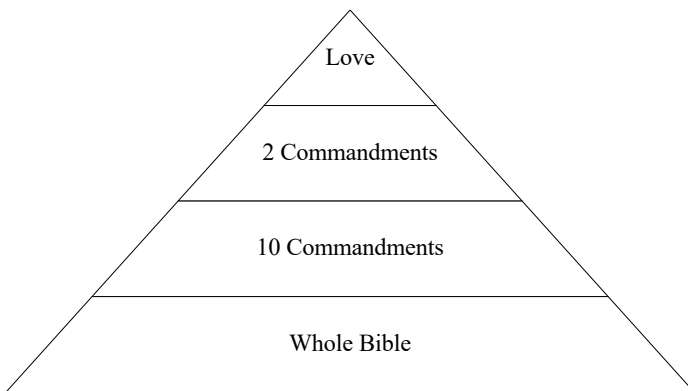
I. Law and Gospel

(Mt 5:17-20; Gen 17:1; Jn 14:15; Rom 3:31; 8:4; 13:8)

II. Types of Law

1. Ceremonial
2. Civil
3. Moral

III. Ten Commandments (Ex 20:3-17; Deut 5:6-21)



⁵ See Johnson, *When Grace Comes Home*, *When Grace Transforms*, and *The Christian Sabbath*.

The Nurturing of Reformed Piety

I. The Family Pew⁶

1. AM & PM attendance
2. The means of grace
3. The Christian Sabbath⁷
4. Children

II. The Family Altar⁸

1. Public & family worship reinforce each other
2. Daily family worship
3. Psalm/hymn of the month
4. Catechizing

III. Personal Devotions

1. Bible (see “M’Cheyne’s Calendar for Daily Readings”)
2. Prayer (see “7 Minutes with God”)

⁶ See Johnson, *Who Needs the Church?*

⁷ See Johnson, *The Christian Sabbath*.

⁸ See Johnson, *The Family Worship Book*, 1-21; *Understanding Family Worship*.



Navigators Discipleship Tool

**Want a deeper relationship with God?
Start with seven minutes a day and
see what happens!**



HOW TO HAVE A DAILY QUIET TIME

Most Christians firmly believe in the importance of spending daily time in God's Word and in prayer, yet, so many of us struggle to do either consistently. Perhaps it's because for us to consider them successful, we think every time with God needs to leave us feeling 100% peaceful or sure that we've received crystal clear messages from the Lord. That's not what happens every time, and that's okay.

"In the book of Psalms, David, who is called 'the one after God's own heart,' (1 Samuel 13:14) experiences the full spectrum of emotions as he prays fervently to God. He didn't hold back from pouring his authentic, messy heart out to the Lord, and we don't need to either. In fact, God welcomes it.

If you begin the spiritual discipline of spending seven minutes with God each day, you will soon find that it's impossible to stop there. An amazing thing happens—seven minutes become 20, and it's not long before you're spending 30 precious minutes with Him daily.

Do it for the right reason. Do not become devoted to the habit, but to the Savior. Spend time in the Word and prayer not because other people are doing it, not as a spiritless duty every morning, not merely as an end in itself, but because God has granted us the priceless privilege of fellowship with Him.

½ minute

Preparing Your Heart

Invest the first 30 seconds preparing your heart. You might pray, "Lord, cleanse my heart so You can speak to me through the Scriptures. Make my mind alert, my soul active and my heart responsive. Surround me with Your presence during this time."

4 minutes

Listening to God (Scripture Reading)

Take the next four minutes to read the Bible. Your greatest need is to hear a word from God. Allow the Word to strike fire in your heart. Meet the Author!

2½ minutes

Talking to God (Prayer)

After God has spoken through His Word, then speak to Him in prayer. One helpful method is to incorporate four areas of prayer that you can remember with the word ACTS.

ADORATION This is the purest kind of prayer because it's all for God. Tell the Lord that you love Him. Reflect on His greatness.

CONFESSION "Confession" comes from a root word meaning "to agree together with." When we apply this to prayer, it means we agree with God's estimation of what we've done. Ask Him to cleanse you of your sin and help you turn from it moving forward.

THANKSGIVING Think of several specific things to thank Him for: your family, your business, your church—even thank Him for being with you in hardship.

SUPPLICATION This means to "ask for, earnestly and humbly." Ask for others, then ask for yourself. Include people around the world, missionaries, friends, and those who have yet to hear about Jesus.



navigators[®]

THIS TOOL IS MEANT TO BE SHARED. To download a copy visit navlink.org/quiet-time
Adapted from Seven Minutes with God, 2012. Created by The Navigators. All Rights Reserved.