



LIVE JESUS

MINISTRIES

LJM Teen Topic: How do I have a relationship with God?

How many of you have been told you should have a relationship with God, but don't know how to go about it? Has anyone ever told you WHY you should have a relationship with God? If so, what have you been told?

CONTENT REFERENCES

- St. Paul: *"By prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God."* (Phil. 4:6)
- CCC on Prayer 2558-2567

Question #1: Why can it be more challenging to have a relationship with God than with other people? It can be obvious when other people desire a relationship with us. It can be harder to know that God has *always wanted* a relationship with us. However, any inclination to pray is already a sign that God is drawing you closer to Himself. God's initiative of love for us always comes first. In prayer, our first step is always a response (CCC 2567).

Question #2: Prayer involves communication with God. In what ways do you find yourself trying to communicate with Him?

Once we call to mind God's presence wherever we are, prayer involves four elements of communication: Adoration, Thanksgiving, Confession, and Petition

- **Adoration:** Praise Him.
- **Thanksgiving:** Thank Him.
- **Confession:** Tell Him You're Sorry.
- **Petition:** Ask Him.

Question #3: Think of ways in which you build and strengthen your relationships with other people. How can you do this for your relationship with God?

Two attitudes (dispositions) that are essential to a life of prayer and genuine relationship with God are gratitude and humility:

- **Gratitude** keeps our relationship with God as a relationship of love instead of simply a repeated series of petitions.
- **Humility** keeps us mindful of who we are before God, and it is how we make room for God to work. It allows us to recognize that "His ways are not our ways" and that often "we do not know how to pray as we ought."
- Many of the ways we build relationships with other people apply to our relationship with God: e.g. Spending time, getting to know each other, speaking AND listening, sharing deeply, etc.

Cornerstone Statement: We are made for relationships— above all, our relationship with God. That relationship is built on communication - this is our prayer life. Our relationship with God takes time to develop and deepen. It takes time and practice to develop the attitudes of gratitude and humility before God that lead us to approach him with adoration, thanksgiving, and confession—not just petition. There is no limit to how close and meaningful this relationship can become.

Group Commitment Going Forward: (Small Commitments)

For the next two weeks, spend twenty minutes in prayer daily, taking time to practice Adoration, Thanksgiving, Confession, and Petition. Ask God to deepen your relationship with Him during this process.