



LIVE JESUS

MINISTRIES

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

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 they told you?

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 does it seem so challenging to develop a relationship with God? What's obvious and what's not so obvious? It can take time to realize 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: Our relationship with God in prayer revolves around communication. In what ways do you find yourself trying to communicate with God?

Figuring out HOW to communicate with God can be challenging. Here is a simple four step approach that saints have used for centuries to help them develop an intimate relationship with God. You can do it for as long and as short as you want, but the idea is that we communicate daily. (Show them how you would use this when you end the night in prayer).

First, simply call to mind that God is present, wherever you are. Then take time to:

- **Praise God** (*Prayers of Praise. E.g. Divine Praises - Worship Song - Psalm 139:14*)
- **Thank God** (*Prayers of Thanksgiving: Vocally Thank God for the Things of the Day*)
- **Tell God You're Sorry** (*Prayers of Reconciliation: Examination of Conscience*)
- **Ask God** (*Prayers of Petition: Vocally Pray for Current Petitions*)

Question #3: What attitudes (or dispositions) towards God do you think will be necessary to build and strengthen your relationship with Him after it has initially developed?

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 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."

Cornerstone Statement: We are made for relationships— above all, an intimate 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 praise, thanksgiving, and a desire for reconciliation—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 time daily in prayer, taking time to practice **Praising God, Thanking God, Telling God You're Sorry, and Asking God** for what you need. Ask God to deepen your relationship with Him during this process.