



LIVE JESUS MINISTRIES

LJM TOP TWELVE (TT10)

How Do I Grow A Deep Relationship With God?

PRAY

Utilize the **Pray** step of your mentor training.

CONNECT

- **Check In:** Have everyone share their **Peaks**(highs/victories) & **Pits**(lows/struggles) since the last gathering and their current **Prayer** intention. Use a couple starter/going deeper questions from LJM.

DISCUSS

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: *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?*

Question #2: *Why does it seem so challenging to develop a relationship with God? What's obvious and what's not so obvious?*

(Mentor Note: It can take time to realize that God has **always** wanted a relationship with us. Any inclination to pray is 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 #3: *Our relationship with God in prayer revolves around communication. In what ways do you find yourself trying to communicate with God?*

(Mentor Note: 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.

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: Thank God for the Things of the Day/Salvation/etc)
- **Tell God You're Sorry** (Prayers of Reconciliation: Examination of Conscience)
- **Ask God** (Prayers of Petition: Pray for Current Petitions)

Question #4: *What attitudes (dispositions) and disciplines do you think are necessary to build and strengthen your relationship with God?*

(Mentor Note: **Humility (living in self-truthfulness), Consistency, and Gratitude.**)

- **Humility:** Keeps us mindful of who we are before God and is how we make room for God to work.
- **Consistency:** Keeps us coming back to the **well** where His grace is made available to us daily.
- **Gratitude:** Keeps our relationship with God as a relationship of love instead of simply consumer based.

Cornerstone Statement: We are made for relationships— above all, an intimate relationship with God. That relationship is built on communication, which is our prayer life. Our relationship with God takes time to develop and deepen. It takes time and practice to develop the attitudes and disciplines of humility, consistency, and gratitude 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.

COMMIT: Create a group commitment going forward (small commitments).

- Idea: For the next two weeks, spend time daily in prayer **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.
- Pray for each person's prayer intentions spoken at the beginning of the night.

Remind them of the next meeting date, location, time

Invite them to other youth events offered at your location. (extend these invitations at your discretion).