



Connecting

Everyone, Everywhere, Everyday

with the love and message of Jesus Christ.

## HOW TO SPEND A DAILY QUIET TIME WITH GOD

When I came to faith in Jesus Christ, I learned that to grow in my relationship with God and to know how to live a life that pleased Him I needed to develop a quiet time (or may be called devotional time). I can say without hesitation this has been the biggest aid to me growing to follow Jesus. My quiet times have been crucial in me hearing God speak to me and has helped beyond measure gaining perspective. My times in reading and prayer have enhanced my worship and given me space to spiritually breathe by reflecting. Below are some ways you can develop a fruitful and life changing quiet time. If you have any questions I'd love to talk more with you.

In Christ,  
Pastor Matt

### 1. Preparation.

A.Set a consistent time (see Psalm 5:3) Identify your best alert time.

Try to avoid being rushed

B.Start small and let it grow.

C.Set your schedule around this time

D.Choose a quiet place (Mark 1:35 Jesus did)

E.Have Bible and notebook

### 2. Action

A.Quiet your mind and heart before Him. (Psalm 46:10) You can do this by praying, singing or playing worshipful songs.

B.Ask God to speak to your heart and help you to hear.

C.Intentionally commit to God distracting thoughts

### 3. Read Scripture

A.Have a plan. If just getting started read out of the New Testament. You don't have to read a lot but make sure you are thinking about what you read.

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#### 4. Meditate

A.Think about what God's Word is saying. Ask yourself questions. Consider grid of questions. Maybe the examples below would help.

·Is there a command to obey?

Is there a promise to claim?

Is there an example for me to follow?

Is there a temptation or error to avoid?

Is there a sin to confess?

Is there a truth for me to believe?

·What do these verses tell me about God?

What do these verses tell me about myself and others?

Is there an action for me to take based on what I have read?

#### 5. Journalize

A.Briefly jot down what God is telling you through the Bible reading. Make it personal. Record struggles or questions to study further or ask for advice.

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#### 6. Pray

A.Talk to God heart to heart – pray back to Him what you are learning.

B.Commit your day to Him

C.Pray for others (suggest making a list)

7. Share (Colossians 3:16) one of most natural ways to encourage and witness is to share with others what you read and what God is doing in your personal life.

#### 8. Seek accountability

Fill in details of your Personal Plan:

A.I will spend time with God at this \_\_\_\_\_ time?

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B.I will spend time with God by reading \_\_\_\_\_

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C.I will ask \_\_\_\_\_to hold me accountable by asking me how my quiet times are going. I will ask this person next week.



Dear Friends at Faith Evangelical Free Church,

Thank you for your participation in the Sanctity of Human Life Baby Bottle Campaign to raise funds for Abiding Care. Through God's goodness, Faith E-Free raised a total of **\$977.46!**

We are grateful for your partnership. Because of you, women in our community have a place to turn for help. Parents have support and encouragement, along with help for their material needs. Their children will be helped and blessed because of it, and so will the generations after them. It's a ripple effect and we couldn't do it without donors like you!

May God bless you immensely!

*Bella* *Olivia* *Lucas* *Carrie* *Chloe* *Dan*

## Unveiled Hope – A Study in Revelation

We as a church will be beginning our study on the Book of Revelation May 11th. I wanted to provide a tool to aid you as you read through this book on your own. The temptation is to write off the book as impossible to understand and thus keep it closed. But doing so comes with significant loss. We understand why as we read the extraordinary promise in the book's third verse:

Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near. (Revelation 1:3)

How do we reach this blessing? As I've grown as a reader of Revelation, I've found the seven suggestions below invaluable.

### 7 Tips for Reading the Book of Revelation

#### 1. Consider the Original Audience.

The Apostle John wrote Revelation to encourage the embattled first-century church. That means that when Revelation was read aloud to the churches (1:3), everyday believers—without advanced theology degrees or fancy interpretations—were expected to understand and apply the message as God intended. If they could hear and keep that message back then, so can we today.

#### 2. Make Good Observations.

A mistake we make in Bible study is jumping to questions or curiosities or applications without first reading the text carefully. Here are a few pointers to keep you focused on the text:

- Ask yourself, What is the text actually saying? Fight the urge to turn to study notes or a commentary before reading and thinking carefully.
- Note key repetitions. The repetitions of blessing, patient endurance, the throne of God (that refers to God's sovereignty over history), repentance, and "the one who conquers" are all central to the message of Revelation. Consider underlining or highlighting these key repetitions to help yourself in future readings of the book.
- Note contrasts. To name a few, Revelation contrasts heaven and earth, good and evil spiritual beings, God's people and the rebellious world. As you notice contrasts, ask yourself What is their intended effect?

As I've grown in my observation skills, I've found that re-reading books of Scripture helps me see what the text is actually saying.



### 3. Understand the Basics of Apocalyptic Literature.

Revelation is an amalgam of genres: in addition to being a book of prophecy (1:3) and an epistle (1:4), Revelation is apocalyptic. Some even call the book "The Apocalypse of John." The word 'Apocalypse' simply means 'a revealing' in Greek. Revelation's message is not intentionally veiled from readers, as if God wanted to trick us. Look at the first words of the book: "The revelation [or apocalypse] of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known..." (1:1, emphasis mine). This revelation serves a special purpose: to give a "heavenly perspective on our earthly circumstances so that every generation of God's people can be challenged, comforted, and given hope for the future."<sup>[2]</sup>

Apocalyptic literature isn't concerned about giving an exact chronological timeline and often will repeat the same events from different angles. (Because of that, I'd encourage you to make what's clear in the text your focus, not figuring out a timeline.)

Apocalyptic literature is filled with symbols and images. Revelation mentions many like seals, trumpets, bowls, beasts, women, seven hills, the mark of the beast, and more.

When John gives us the meaning of a symbol (see Revelation 1:12, 20 and Revelation 12:9 for example), pay attention, that makes our job of interpretation easier!

Clues for interpreting symbols may come from other parts of Scripture. Many of Revelation's beasts, colors, and numbers find their meaning first in other portions of Scripture.<sup>[3]</sup> (A Bible with a cross-reference system or a study Bible can help you here.) Other clues may come from a good understanding of the original audience. For instance, original readers would likely read the reference to "seven hills" in Revelation 17:9 and immediately think of the seven hills of ancient Rome. (A study Bible can help you on this point.)

If your head is spinning... don't worry! The next point will encourage you.

### 4. Focus on the Main Message and Don't Get Bogged Down in Details.

Part of the challenge of Revelation is the myriad of confusing details. Why does the first beast in Revelation 13 have ten horns and seven heads? When will the bowls of judgment be poured out? Who is the anti-Christ? Did I accept the mark of the beast by failing to read terms and conditions on that one website? We easily lose the forest for the trees with such

questions. Keeping the book's main idea always in mind will keep us focused on what's most important.

Here's a suggested main idea: The risen Christ calls His people to faithful endurance amidst fiery trials as He judges His enemies and brings His everlasting Kingdom to fruition. That's a mouthful, so consider this two word alternative: Jesus wins.

As you read each section of the book, do your best to answer the questions How does this relate to/develop the main idea? And What is Christ calling me to?

5. Appreciate the Old Testament's influence on Revelation.

Revelation brings the story of the Bible to a close.[4] Just like the end of any epic story, key threads get resolved and come to fulfillment. (If you're a movie buff, you may compare this to the last movie of an epic series that shares Easter eggs to previous episodes along the way.)

By some counts, Revelation alludes to the Old Testament over 500 times.[5] That means to understand Revelation as it was written, we'll do better by putting down the newspaper and picking up the Old Testament!

You're never going to plumb the depth of Revelation's use of the Old Testament, but recognizing references to will can sweeten your experience in reading the

book and your overall appreciation for the glorious unity of the Bible.

Here's a starter pack of Old Testament passages to add depth to your reading:

- Genesis 1–3 – To understand any story well, you need to know how it starts and how it ends. Read Genesis 1–3 and then Revelation 21–22, noting similarities and differences between them. For example, in Genesis 1 we see God creating the heavens and earth in Genesis, while Revelation 21 ushers in a new heaven and new earth. We see the curse of sin enter God's perfect creation in Genesis 3, and we see no more curse in Revelation 22:3. Grasp the threads that connect the bookends of the Bible and you'll have a good idea what the 1,184 chapters between them are about. You'll also have a greater appreciation for the person and work of Jesus Christ who is the focus of the Scriptures (Luke 24:44).
- Exodus 7–13 – Revelation has echoes of the plagues on Egypt throughout the book (for an example, see the Bowl Judgments of chapter 16). In Revelation, Jesus is repeatedly called "the lamb that was slain" (Revelation 5:12), an image that originated in

- the Passover meal of Exodus 12. In Exodus, God flexed His sovereign muscles in dramatic fashion when He judged His enemies and saved His people by the blood of the lamb. He's doing the exact same thing in Revelation.
- Psalm 2 – The image of Christ dashing the nations to pieces with a rod of iron comes up several times in Revelation (2:27, 12:5, 19:15) and reminds readers of who is really in charge when the nations rage against God and His anointed Christ.
- Daniel 7 – John draws heavily from the prophetic portion of the Old Testament, specifically the books of Daniel, Zechariah, Ezekiel. Perhaps no chapter from this portion of Scripture stands at the backdrop of Revelation more than Daniel 7. In the chapter, Daniel sees a night vision of four beasts and also “one like a son of man” (Daniel 7:13) who was given dominion and an eternal kingdom “that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him” (Daniel 7:14). Sound familiar? 😊

## 6. Savor the Power and Glory of Jesus Christ.

From beginning to end, Revelation presents a glorious picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. In chapter one, Jesus is “one like a son of man”, a majestic figure

holding the keys to death and Hades (Revelation 1:18). He has eyes like flames of fire, feet like polished bronze, and a voice like rushing waters, emphasizing His divine authority and glorious presence. In chapter five, He is the conquering Lamb who was slain and the only One worthy to open the scroll and break its seals. The rest of the book calls Jesus the conqueror of sin and death, the Alpha and Omega, the King of kings and Lord of lords, the Bright and Morning Star of a new and glorious era, the judge of the living and the dead, and the Rider on the white horse who will return in glory to reign forever.

As you grasp who Jesus is and apply His Lordship to your life and struggles in this world, you'll be able to join the great multitude of heaven crying out, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” (Revelation 5:12)

## 7. Set Your Hope in God and Your Glorious Future.

If you've ever faced discouragement thinking about wars, famines, pandemics, and the increasing evil in our world, Revelation is for you. Revelation lifts our eyes from our troubled world to the God who sovereignly rules everything and who will one day rid the world of all evil

Hello, Faith Free Family!

Wow! Time sure does fly! It's been a good and fruitful year, full of growth. I've seen God move through the youth students in so many ways throughout the school year!

As we enter the summer season and wrap up our weekly Wednesday night groups, we can look forward to many fun activities and upcoming events.

Our seniors are finishing up the school year and preparing to graduate, and we would like to invite you to join us for Senior Sunday on May 18th during the church service as we recognize this year's graduates.

Hey, youth students! Are you interested in volunteering for VBS? If so, we have an exciting opportunity for you to help build a float for the Father's Day Parade on June 4th. Float-building days will be on Saturday, May 31st at 10:30 AM in the church parking lot and Sunday, June 1st right after church.

Are you interested in going on a mission trip this year? You have an amazing opportunity to travel to Wyoming and serve at a camp! All ages are welcome to join. The cost is \$150. Scan the QR code to sign up. For more information, feel free to contact me via email or phone.

I'm really looking forward to this summer and all the exciting activities ahead. I can't wait to see what God will do through our youth and worship team!

Blessings,

Isabella Andrews

Director of Student and Worship Ministries

Faith Free Church

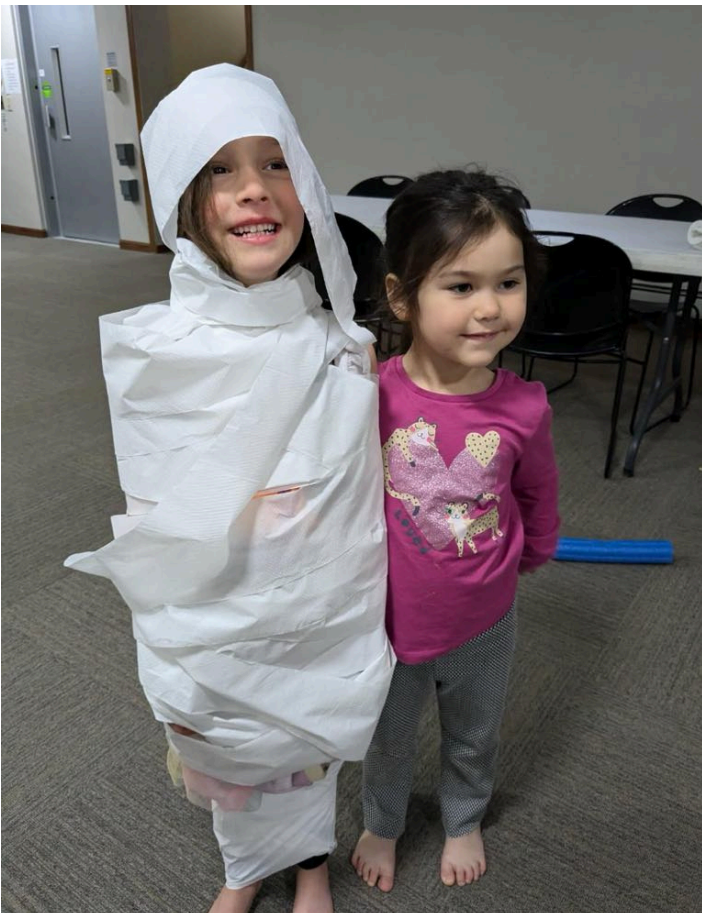
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As we are nearing the end of the school year, I want to encourage parents and grandparents to still show the kids in your life how to show up for Jesus even in the rat race of the summer months. The 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders are learning about how to journal along with reading their Bibles. Please continue to encourage them in this. As many are excited to learn and spend time with God. Maybe even do this with them. Such a great activity to do together or alongside our kids. A few other ideas for all ages is by signing them up and bringing them to VBS June 22-26<sup>th</sup> whether it's one day or all five we would love to have them.



You could also volunteer to help out during VBS and make it a family affair or just bring them and let us show them how to look to Jesus in this wild world. Also, Kids church will still be held over the summer months every Sunday morning. This is a time for them to learn more about Jesus and also spend time with their peers building strong Christian friendships. As a church we will also be hosting music in the parking lot this summer and would love to see this as a time for families to come out and worship together. Matthew 18:20 tells us "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." How great it is to be in His presence with friends and family. Thank you for allowing me to help be the hands and feet of the children in this church.

Jaime



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# 2025 May

 <b>MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST</b> 05/03 @9:00am Fellowship Hall	 <b>SISTERS IN CHRIST</b> Fridays @6:00pm Youth Room
 <b>COMMUNION SUNDAY</b> 05/04 @10:00am Sanctuary	 <b>TACOS AND THAILAND</b> 05/03 @4:30pm Fellowship Hall
 <b>FAITH FREE YOUTH</b> Wednesday nights @6:00pm Faith Free Church	 <b>TUESDAY UNIVERSITY</b> Tuesdays @6:00pm Conference room
 <b>PINEWOOD DERBY</b> 05/10 @10:30am Faith Free Church	 <b>KID'S CLUB</b> Wednesday nights @6:00pm Faith Free Church
 <b>GRADUATE SUNDAY</b> 05/18 @10:00am Faith Free Church	 <b>MOTHER'S DAY</b> 05/11 @10:00am Faith Free Church
 <b>BOOK CLUB</b> 05/28 @6:30pm Faith Free Church	 <b>END OF YEAR PARTY</b> 05/28 @6:00pm Faith Free Parking lot
	 <b>VBS FLOAT BUILDING</b> 05/31 @10:30am Faith Free Parking lot Inground towards youth

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31