

Aim: To understand the importance of personal Bible study and prayer.

How often do you talk to your friends?

How often do you listen to your friends?

Do you ever write letters, notes, emails or text messages to your friends?

Do you ever talk to your friends on the telephone?

All of these things are ways of communicating, and communication is necessary if people are to have close relationships.

Do you know what I mean by close relationships?

When you have a close relationship with someone, it means that you care about them and know things about them, like, what they do, what they think and what they feel; and they care about you and know those things about you too. It means you do things together and spend time together; you are friends.

Did you know that God wants to have a close personal relationship with you?

Does God care about you? Does God know what you are doing? What you think? How you feel?

God knows what we are doing, thinking and feeling but He still likes us to talk to Him. **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:17**

God listening to you and knowing about you is easy, but what about you listening to and learning about God?

How do you find out what God has done and is doing? (It is written in the Bible for us, we just have to read it.)

How do you find out what God thinks? (By reading the Bible, and by praying and waiting for an answer)

How do you find out what God is feeling? (By reading the Bible)

Did you ever think of God having feelings before?

Briefly look at the following verses, what is God feeling? John 3:16 (Love), Proverbs 6:16-19 (Hate), John 11:35 (Sadness)

Sometime we are unable to spend as much time with our friends as we would like, sometimes we're too busy or we might even forget about them. Sometimes people don't spend time with God because they are too busy, or they think it's boring or they just forget.

What could you do if you find it boring?

Before you start to read the Bible, pray and ask God to help you while you read it. God may lead you to a special verse; He will help you to understand what you read; He will help you to concentrate too.

Try a different part of the Bible, most people like to start with reading about Jesus; you could also read about your favourite Bible person, like Daniel or Noah.

What could you do if you keep forgetting?

Put your Bible or maybe a sign in a place where you will see it and remember. Get into a habit of reading your Bible, or Bible stories, and praying.

What should you do if you don't have time for Bible study or prayer?

And, you don't have to read a whole chapter every day; you could read a few verses and then spend time during the day thinking about what they mean.

(Read the first two and the last verse of the poem "Didn't Have Time")

It doesn't seem to make sense when you're really busy, to do something extra as well; that would mean you've got even less time to get everything done. But when it comes to God, the exact opposite is true! When you take the time out of your day to spend with God, then God will help you with the rest of your day; things will work faster and better, there will be fewer problems, and the problems will not be as bad...

Didn't Have Time

*I got up early one morning
And rushed right into the day!
I had so much to accomplish
That I didn't have time to pray.*

*Problems just tumbled about me,
And heavier came each task.
"Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered.
He answered, "You didn't ask!"*

*I tried to come into God's presence;
I used all my keys at the lock.
God gently and lovingly chided,
"Why, child, you didn't knock!"*

*I wanted to see joy and beauty,
But the day toiled on, gray and bleak.
I wondered why God didn't show me.
He said, "But you didn't seek."*

*I woke up early this morning,
And paused before entering the day.
I had so much to accomplish
That I had to take time to pray!*

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