

Reading Plan

October 19 - November 1

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For the next two weeks our reading plan is going to look a bit different. Yesterday during MomLife we talked about the seven different pathways to spiritual connectivity. The seven pathways are:

- 1) Contemplative
- 2) Worship
- 3) Intellectual
- 4) Activist
- 5) Service
- 6) Creation
- 7) Relational



For the next fourteen days we will take two days to focus on each of the seven pathways. We each use a unique combination of these pathways to best connect with God. As mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, and friends, it is beneficial for us to understand each pathway to better relate to the people in our lives who also connect to God in their own unique way.

As you practice connecting to Him throughout the next two weeks consider this verse:

“For the Lord your God is living among you. He is a mighty savior.
He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears.
He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.”
-Zephaniah 3:17 (NLT)

Ladies, we serve a living and active God! He is among us in all we do. He delights to connect with us; we just have to be open to connecting with Him! I hope you enjoy the next two weeks and I can't wait to hear about your experiences at our next meeting!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19 & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

The Contemplative Pathway

The Contemplative loves uninterrupted time with God. They are primarily concerned with loving Him in deep, pure and simple ways. The contemplative knows that contentment doesn't come from doing more or having more, but from within. The idea is to “just be” - to just be in His presence with no distractions or ulterior motives.

Read Luke 10:38-42. Mary was a contemplative. She didn't let herself get concerned or obsessive about housework; instead, she allowed herself to just sit at the feet of Jesus.

For the next two days choose one of the following practices to work on connecting with God through the contemplative pathway:

1. **Secret Acts of Devotion** – This is something you do without letting anyone know that you did it. A few examples would be to give an anonymous gift (pay for someone else’s coffee), write someone a random card of encouragement or to do something “behind the scenes” for someone else. This doesn’t need to cost anything. Pray about it and let God reveal to you opportunities to act in quiet and secret devotion to Him.
2. **Dancing Prayer** – Unfortunately this doesn’t actually include dancing (although it could if you felt led to!). The idea of a dancing prayer is to come to God completely open – without any idea of where the prayer will lead. The only thing you need to do is to still yourself, and open your heart. He will take it from there!
3. **Centering Prayer** – A prayer where you focus on one word or phrase and whenever you get distracted you come back to that one word/phrase. You can pick your word/phrase, but a few ideas that are based on the notion of the Contemplative would be: still, be, or quiet.

After practicing one of the above, take time to write down some of your thoughts and what/if God revealed anything to you.

Friday, October 19th Notes:

Saturday, October 20th Notes:

With your kids and/or spouse:

Talk to your family about the idea behind secret acts of devotion. Decide together something you can do for someone else “behind the scenes.” Then, either do one thing together or multiple things separately and discuss the outcome.

Make a note of what you did here: _____

OCTOBER FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

ACTIVITY #1: _____

If you haven't done the water/pitcher activity that illustrates Matthew 22:37-39 yet, refer to the previous Reading Plan for details.

ACTIVITY #2: _____

www.graceclarksville.com/forthecity

Sign up for your family to participate in one of Grace's For the City projects on Saturday, October 27. There are several family friendly projects - check out the Project Descriptions for details.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21ST & MONDAY, OCTOBER 22ND

The Worship Pathway

The Worshiper loves to celebrate God with excitement and awe. They love the mystery of God and the fact there are certain things about the Christian faith that we can't fully understand or explain. The worshiper orients their heart to give thanks to God in all things and fosters a spirit of gladness. You may hear some refer to the worshiper as the enthusiast. The word “enthusiasm” comes from the Greek words “en” and “theos” which literally mean “full of God.” Worshipers love to enthusiastically praise God in all they do, but they have a special longing for corporate worship like what we see on Sunday mornings.

Read 2 Samuel 6:14-23.

King David was a worshiper. He danced in the streets despite all who were watching. He was willing to “look even more foolish than this, even to be humiliated in [his] own eyes” (v. 22, NLT) in order to celebrate all the the Lord had done.

For the next two days choose one of the following practices to work on connecting with God through the worship pathway:

1. **Worship** – We studied worship earlier this month. Essentially, worship happens whenever we value God above everything else in our lives. Attend a worship service on Sunday morning and let yourself be fully present with the Lord in His house.
2. **Conversational Prayer** – Talk to God in front of others and do so whether it is planned or unplanned. If you find yourself about to say, “I’ll pray for you”, STOP right then and pray with the person. Prayer doesn’t need to wait until your next meal or bedtime. Practice praying throughout your day as a way to worship Him.
3. **Celebration** – Celebrate by giving thanks to Him for all that He has done. Write out ten things you are thankful for. Or better yet, write out things you are thankful for until you run out of things to write down!

After practicing one of the above, take time to write down some of your thoughts and what/if God revealed anything to you.

Sunday, October 21st Notes:

Monday, October 22nd Notes:

With your kids and/or spouse:

Refer to the gratitude journal you created last month. Or if you didn’t do one, list 5 things you are grateful for. Then, with the list in mind, worship and celebrate all of the good things God has done for you by either 1) singing and dancing to worship music, 2) offering a group prayer of thanksgiving or 3) celebrating with a tasty treat like ice cream or cookies!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23RD & WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24TH

The Intellectual Pathway

The Intellectual loves the study of Scripture and theology. They desire to understand their faith more than experience it. Intellectuals often feel closest to God when they understand an aspect of their faith differently or more profoundly than they had before. Matthew 22:37 tell us to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” (CSB) Intellectuals place emphasis on loving God with their mind.

Read Proverbs 1:5-7.

Apostle Paul was an intellectual. We see him continually use Scripture to support his understanding of God’s salvation. He also places great emphasis on your mind helping you in your Christian walk. In Romans 12:2 Paul said, “Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing and perfect will of God.”(CSB)

For the next two days, choose one of the following practices to work on connecting with God through the intellectual pathway:

1. **Read the Bible** – Not to state the obvious, but the best way to be transformed by Scripture is to READ SCRIPTURE! Take some time to be intentional about reading your Bible. If you aren’t sure where to start I would encourage you to read Romans 12. If you want to dip deep, go to biblestudytools.com, under Study go to Commentaries. Find Hebrews 12 in Matthew Henry’s Concise Commentary of the Whole Bible.
2. **Read a Christian Non-Fiction Book** – There are plenty of amazing books that will help point you towards a deeper understanding of your faith. Recently you’ve heard us discuss The Furious Longing of God by Brennan Manning. This would be a great book to start with.
3. **Have a conversation with someone about a spiritual issue.** Ask questions, share affirmations and challenges, and read Scriptures together. We can gain insight and understanding from those around us. As always, it’s important to confirm what is talked about with Scripture to ensure it is Biblically routed.

After practicing one of the above, take time to write down some of your thoughts and what/if God revealed anything to you.

Tuesday, October 23rd Notes:

Wednesday, October 24th Notes:

With your kids and/or spouse

Work on memorizing Colossians 3:13, ESV (our memory verse for October),

"bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive."

Intellectuals not only study Scripture, but also memorize it to use when explaining their faith to others.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25TH & FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26TH

The Activist Pathway

Activists have a strong passion to see justice in the world and to build His Kingdom. They become emotionally fueled by injustice happening to those around them. They have a heart for all people – the homeless, the immigrant, the imprisoned. At the heart of an activist is the belief that ALL people were created in the image of God. The activist will work to see change and improvement for those in need and to bring justice to every situation.

Read Nehemiah 1 & 2.

Nehemiah was an activist. He saw a problem, came up with a solution, and got to work. With an activist, a prayer and a plan come together.

For the next two days, choose one of the following practices to work on connecting with God through the activist pathway:

1. **Support a Cause** – Give financially or of your time to a cause you believe in. Grace Community Church's For the City event is THIS Saturday October 27th. We'd love for you to volunteer alongside of us! Or check out one of our community or global partners @ www.graceclarksville.com/outreach.

2. **Write a Letter** - There are a plethora of justice issues in the world today that we as Christians should be caring about. Sometimes it can feel like our efforts are insignificant when dealing with larger justice issues, but truly as Christians, God has called us to speak up for those who can't. Write a letter to a political leader about an issue of justice you are concerned with.
3. **Pray for Justice** - The best thing for Christians to do for the world is pray for it. Pray for the world, pray for peace, pray for healing, pray for understanding.

After practicing one of the above, take time to write down some of your thoughts and what/if God revealed anything to you:

Thursday, October 25th Notes:

Friday, October 26th Notes:

With your kids and/or spouse

Talk with your family about what it means to be an advocate for someone else. Ask if they've ever seen someone being bullied or ostracized because of their differences. Talk about ways your family can make a difference in that person's life by advocating for them and then make a plan for any future incidents.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27TH & SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28TH

The Service Pathway

A Server would rather be serving than be served. They feel closest to God when they are doing something for someone else. Philippians 2:3-4 describes the heart of a server, “Do nothing out of rivalry (selfish ambition) or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. Everyone should look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.” (CSB)R

Read 1 Peter 4:9-10.

There are many different Biblical examples of servers such as Dorcas (Acts 9:36) and Mordecai (Esther 2:7). Servers always place the needs of others before their own.

For the next two days, choose one of the following practices to work on connecting with God through the service pathway:

1. **Acts of Service** – Again, Grace Community Church’s For the City is today (Saturday, October 27th) and we’d love to serve along side of you! If you aren’t able to participate in the event, there are plenty of other opportunities for you to serve! Sign up to volunteer at your church, give a monetary donation to a cause, babysit for a tired mom, help a friend with a personal crisis, bake cookies and plan a tea party with an elderly neighbor, take a meal to a friend/family who is grieving.
2. **Practice Daily Hospitality** – Invite other people over to share a meal/coffee with you. Don’t wait until the house looks perfect. People aren’t looking for perfection they’re looking for connection. Welcome others into your life and while they are there, practice loving them, not entertaining them.
3. **Become a mentor.** You have a lot of knowledge, experience and love to give to someone else who is a little behind you in their stage of life! (For example: think of a high school or college-aged girl – maybe your kids’ babysitter // think of a new mom who is going through a parenting season you’ve already been through // think of a new follower of Christ who has lots of questions about the Christian life.) Simply invite someone into your life with the goal of encouraging and supporting them in their life endeavors. Don’t overcomplicate it – mentorship is simply friendship with a bit more life giving direction. It isn’t about having all the answers and giving perfect advice. If you think you might be interested in being a mentor and have more questions about what it looks like, email melanieahill@gmail.com or ccrosby@graceclarksville.com for some resources.

After practicing one of the above, take time to write down some of your thoughts and what/if God revealed anything to you.

Saturday, October 27th Notes:

Sunday, October 28th Notes:

With your kids and/or spouse

Involve your kids in one of the options above. Perhaps you could write a card to your mailman, rake your neighbors leaves or volunteer at an organization WITH your family. Teaching your kids the importance of serving others will serve them well for the rest of their lives.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29TH & TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30TH
The Creation Pathway

Those who connect best through this pathway are deeply connected to God by spending time in His creation. Being outside helps awaken their senses, opens their minds and reaffirms their faith. This type of person may feel more connected to God by sitting alongside a stream than they ever would from studying Scripture. They seem to be more in tune with the heart’s desire to *rest* than others. Throughout the Bible God revealed himself to people outdoors: Hagar (Genesis 21), Abraham (Genesis 22), Jacob (Genesis 32:22-31) and Moses (Exodus 3:2-6).

Read Psalm 23 through the eyes of a creationist.

Jesus exemplifies every pathway, but the Bible often mentions that Jesus was drawn to nature. He often withdrew from others to be with his maker... outside.

For the next two days, choose one of the following practices to work on connecting with God through the creation pathway:

- 1. **Go On a Walk** – Get out around nature and take notice of all God has created–each individual blade of grass, the warmth of the sun, the crisp autumn air. Be filled with the awe and wonder of His creation.
- 2. **Catch the Sunrise/Sunset** – There is something so beautiful about the fresh start that comes when the sun rises. There is also something beautiful about a sunset and the ending of another day as the kids are hopefully winding down (tired moms, can I get an Amen?). Spend time watching and praying through these daily reminders of God’s goodness and promises to us.
- 3. **Take a Picture of Nature** –Be intentional about seeing the beauty around you, enough so that you actually find something to take a picture of–maybe the morning dew on the grass, or a particularly beautiful leaf changing color. When life gets crazy during the week, reflect back on the picture you took and the goodness of what He has created.
- 4. **UNPLUG** – Devote time to others without interruption. Pick a day to completely unplug from social media and email.

After practicing one of the above, take time to write down some of your thoughts and what/if God revealed anything to you.

Monday, October 29th Notes:

Tuesday, October 30th Notes:

With your kids and/or spouse

Together, get outside in His creation. Take turns pointing out something beautiful God made that you often overlook. Take pictures, sketch, pray and spend time in silence with one another in childlike awe. If it happens to be rainy, I've heard going through a puddle can be good for your soul too.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31ST & THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

The Relational Pathway

For the Relationalist, spiritual growth comes easiest when it involves other people. God often speaks to the relationalist *through* other people. The idea of solitude and studying Scripture alone sounds daunting and boring. They would rather be praying, worshipping, and learning with other Christians. Relationalists love Sunday mornings, Bible studies, small group, MomLife, meaningful coffee dates, and accountability groups (like exercising together or working toward a goal together).

Read Matthew 14:22-33 & Luke 22:54-62.

The Apostle Peter was a relationalist. His decision to follow Christ, as well as his denial of Christ, all happened in a group context.

For the next two days, choose one of the following practices to work on connecting with God through the intellectual pathway.

1. **Come to MomLife** - Seriously! MomLife by design is a relational pathway.
2. **Accountability Date** - Grab coffee or go for a walk with a friend and discuss what God is teaching you right now. Ask them how you can be praying for them and then continue to check up on one another and hold each other accountable.
3. **Bible Study or Book Club** - Get a friend or several together and start a Bible study or read something together (like the Christian Non-Fiction book you might have picked for the intellectual pathway practice). There are plenty of study options out there but sometimes it's best to work through a study with someone you else. FaceTime, phone calls, texting and emailing make this even easier, although my personal favorite method is ALWAYS in person.
4. **Join a Small Group** - Grace Community Church small groups will launch in January. Be praying about whether or not you'd like to join one (or maybe even lead one!). Remember, God made community for a reason - we weren't meant to go through life alone!

After practicing one of the above, take time to write down some of your thoughts and what/if God revealed anything to you.

Wednesday, October 31st Notes:

Thursday, November 1st Notes:

With your kids and/or spouse

Talk about the importance of friendships and other people in our lives. God didn't design us to walk through life on our own. Talk about attributes of a good friend and then action steps on how you want to become a better friend by inviting others into your life.