

Meeting With God: A Toolbox Approach

Brief introduction:

1. Our children need training on both the importance of meeting with God and the content of their meeting times.
2. Since seasons change and people are different, it seems that the best training in this area involves introducing our children to a variety of approaches to God in private quiet times.
3. By filling their “toolboxes” and teaching them to use various tools effectively, we equip them for life here and in eternity. After all, it is God they will be spending the most time with for the rest of forever!

What is your goal?

1. We need to recognize (and teach our children) that only God’s Spirit can breathe life into personal devotions.
2. That said, there are ways to position oneself to receive from God’s Spirit. And one can frustrate the grace of God.
 - Infrequency
 - Mindless repetition
 - Over-quick reading of God’s Word
3. Our young children are usually hungry and thirsty for spiritual life once they are saved. We need to help them grow! Let us work diligently to make quiet times attractive and interesting!
 1. First, we need to set a good example in meeting with God regularly ourselves. *Share* what God is saying to you in your quiet times. Your children want to imitate you; capitalize on this natural desire.
 2. We should require obedience to God in maintaining regular meeting times with God. There is no substitute for discipline in this area. Dry times will come to each believer, and children need to develop habits of obedience no matter what their feelings are.
 3. We should not leave them to wonder about the content of their quiet times; neither should we dictate the whole content (especially as children get to be young adults). Rather, we should equip them and then leave room for the Holy Spirit to do the work that only He can do.

Some tools

1. ACTS: mix it up!
 - Adoration
 - Confession
 - Thanksgiving
 - Supplication
2. Pray the Scriptures
 - “We say the same old things about the same old things.” Donald Whitney
 - Take a portion of Scripture and begin to pray it back to God
 - Can be done solo or in groups
3. Look hard at your sins.
 - John’s Loftness’s truth/lies chart
 - Self Confrontation thoughts, words, and actions
4. Preach the gospel to yourself every day
 - The holiness of God
 - The sinfulness of sin
 - The amazing nature of grace
5. Praying the Savior’s Way: Scott Somerville’s Lord’s Prayer chart
6. Colors and symbols: Key Arthur’s Principle approach
7. Published Bible studies or Bible reading plans