

How to Keep in Relationship with God



God wants us to know God better. God wants to have a relationship with us. Doing special things helps us stay close to God. We need to do some of these things every day.

Welcome! Let's talk about being a friend. We will write things friends do on the board. Jesus wants us to be His friends. We need to spend time with Him. We can do this with Spiritual Disciplines. Our church founder John Wesley called these "the Means of Grace".



Explore Watch "Piety and Mercy," Chuck Knows Church [#86](#). Or sing Faith We Sing Hymn 2129 "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus." Here are symbols that show a Means of Grace: Offering plate, chalice, Bible, Upper Room or a devotional, loaf of bread, bowl of water, picture of a church, a fellowship activity, a mission trip or outreach, praying hands.



Scripture James 4:8a

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

Respond

We need to do things to stay close to God. We call these things Spiritual Disciplines or the Means of Grace.

- What is your favorite Means of Grace from the items we passed out?
- How do you practice with it?
- Grace gives you God's power. It helps you follow Jesus better. How does your favorite practice help you follow Jesus? How does it help you stay close to God?



Pray

Dear God, I want to stay close to you. I want to follow Jesus better. I need your help to do this. Help me use the means of grace you have given me. I want to do these things more often. Please give me the will to do this. I pray in Jesus name. Amen.

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Staying Close to God Match Game



Item

How We can Use It

Church	Spiritual Reading to learn about God
Bible	Where we worship God with other people
Offering Plate	Used for Sacrament of Communion
Chalice, Bread	Used for tithes and offerings (give to others)
Bowl of Water	Spending time with other Christians
Upper Room Book	For daily devotions and Bible Study
Picture of mission work	Used for Sacrament of Baptism
Picture of fellowship activity	How we serve God and our Neighbors

What's Missing

We will place items from our welcome time on a table or on the floor. Study them. Close your eyes. Someone will take one or more things away. Open your eyes and try to figure out what is missing. How does the missing object help you stay close to God or follow Jesus better?

Until next time . . . Use a Means of Grace every day. Mark an "X" above each day you use a Spiritual Discipline.

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday