

# GETTING STARTED

## Draw near.

James 4 tells us that this phrase—*draw near*—is reciprocal. When we draw near to God, it is revealed that he has been drawing near to us the whole time. Like the hymn says: “I sought the Lord, and afterward I knew he moved my soul to seek him, seeking me. It was not I that found, O Savior true, no, I was found of thee.”

We understand that it is hard sometimes to feel like you can draw near to God. You may feel like you aren’t even worthy. But we are reminded throughout Scripture that God meets us in our weakness and limitations. It is exactly in those moments that the Lord is calling out to us, letting us know that he is near, if only we will look for him.

Maybe right now, though, drawing near is a struggle. Here are some tips for how to set apart time in your day to seek the Lord, to be in his Word, and to draw near to him:

- Set aside a specific time each day to engage with God’s Word. It doesn’t have to be the morning if you’re a night-owl, but it is helpful to keep a routine.
- To the best of your ability, remove distractions. Put your phone on “Do Not Disturb.” If you have children, find the quiet times in their routine and use them as your own quiet times.
- And remember—it’s okay to start small! For some of us, reading can be difficult, or maybe it’s incredibly hard to find the gaps in your schedule. That’s fine! Make the time in your schedule to be present, and remember that 10 minutes is better than none.

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Draw  
near

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***I sought the Lord, and afterward I knew he moved my soul to seek him, seeking me. It was not I that found, O Savior true, no, I was found of thee.***

- Drawing near to God is more than just reading his Word. Be sure to allow yourself the time to really speak with him and engage with him in your personal life.
- Breathe. You are not a lesser believer because you don't read your Bible or pray as much as those around you. Coming to God should not be a stressful event in your life. There is now no condemnation or judgment. You are drawing near now, and that is what is important.

Maybe you are just starting your life-changing journey of drawing near to God. Or maybe it's just been an infrequent or inconsistent rhythm in your life. We hope that these tips serve you. It is our prayer that you are convicted, comforted, and overcome with an abundance of joy as you draw near to him.



*I sought the Lord, and afterward I knew  
He moved my soul to seek him, seeking me;  
It was not I that found, O Saviour true,  
No, I was found of thee.*

*Thou didst reach forth thy hand and mine enfold;  
I walked and sank not on storm-vexed sea,—  
'Twas not so much that I on thee took hold,  
As thou, dear Lord, on me.*

*I find, I walk, I love, but, O the whole  
Of love is but my answer, Lord, to thee;  
For thou wert long beforehand with my soul,  
Always thou lovedst me.*

**I Sought the Lord, and Afterward I Knew**  
Jean Ingelow, 1878

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**God meets us  
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and limitations.**