



# Seek the Lord

## I. The Basics

Proverbs 2:1-5 (NIV®)

<sup>1</sup> My son, if you **accept my words** and **store up my commands** within you,  
<sup>2</sup> **turning your ear** to wisdom and **applying your heart** to understanding,  
<sup>3</sup> and if you **call out** for insight and **cry aloud** for understanding, <sup>4</sup> and if you **look for it as for silver** and **search for it as for hidden treasure**, <sup>5</sup> then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.

### How/When/Why

## II. Seek the Lord

### A. Directives

Psalms 34:10 (NIV®)

The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

1 Chronicles 16:8-12 (NIV®)

<sup>8</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. <sup>9</sup> Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. <sup>10</sup> Glory in his holy name; **let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice**. <sup>11</sup> Look to the LORD and his strength; **seek his face always**. <sup>12</sup> Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced,

Isaiah 55:6-7 (NIV®)

<sup>6</sup> **Seek the LORD while he may be found**; call on him while he is near.  
<sup>7</sup> Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

### B. In Practice

Ezra 6:19-21 (NIV®)

<sup>19</sup> On the fourteenth day of the first month, the exiles celebrated the Passover. <sup>20</sup> The priests and Levites had purified themselves and were all ceremonially clean. The Levites slaughtered the Passover lamb for all the exiles, for their brothers the priests and for themselves. <sup>21</sup> So the Israelites who had returned from the exile ate it, together with all who had separated themselves from the unclean practices of their Gentile neighbors **in order to seek the LORD**, the God of Israel.

Esther 4:15-16 (NIV®)

<sup>15</sup> Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: <sup>16</sup> "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."

Exodus 32:11 (NIV®)

But Moses sought the favor of the LORD his God. "O LORD," he said, "why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand?"

### C. New Testament Instruction

Hebrews 4:14-16 (NIV®)

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. <sup>16</sup> **Let us then approach the throne of grace** with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.



Revelation 1:9-10 (NIV®)

<sup>9</sup> I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

<sup>10</sup> On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,

Acts 13:2-3 (NIV®)

<sup>2</sup> While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." <sup>3</sup> So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

## D. Envisioned with Renewal

Hosea 3:4-5 (NIV®)

<sup>4</sup> For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or idol. <sup>5</sup> Afterward **the Israelites will return and seek the LORD** their God and David their king. **They will come trembling to the LORD** and to his blessings in the last days.

Zephaniah 2:1-3 (NIV®)

<sup>1</sup> Gather together, gather together, O shameful nation, <sup>2</sup> before the appointed time arrives and that day sweeps on like chaff, before the fierce anger of the LORD comes upon you, before the day of the LORD's wrath comes upon you. <sup>3</sup> **Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands.** Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the LORD's anger.

## III. Do Not Seek the Lord/Failure to Seek the Lord

Isaiah 9:13 (NIV®)

But the people have not returned to him who struck them, nor have they sought the LORD Almighty.

Isaiah 31:1 (NIV®)

Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, who rely on horses, who trust in the multitude of their chariots and in the great strength of their horsemen, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel, or seek help from the LORD.

Jeremiah 2:8 (NIV®)

The priests did not ask, 'Where is the LORD?' Those who deal with the law did not know me; the leaders rebelled against me. The prophets prophesied by Baal, following worthless idols.

## IV. Jesus' Life

Matthew 3:13-17 (NIV®)

<sup>13</sup> Then **Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John.** <sup>14</sup> But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup> Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. <sup>16</sup> As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Luke 4:1-2, 14 (NIV®)

<sup>1</sup> Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, <sup>2</sup> where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. . . .

<sup>14</sup> Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.

Luke 6:12-13 (NIV®)

<sup>12</sup> One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and **spent the night praying to God.** <sup>13</sup> When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles:

Luke 5:15-16 (NIV®)

<sup>15</sup> Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. <sup>16</sup> **But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.**



Luke 9:28-31 (NIV®)

<sup>28</sup> About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and **went up onto a mountain to pray.** <sup>29</sup> As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. <sup>30</sup> Two men, Moses and Elijah, <sup>31</sup> appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.

Luke 9:51 (NIV®)

As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.

Mark 8:31-33 (NIV®)

<sup>31</sup> He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. **"You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."**

Matthew 26:36-38 (NIV®)

<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." <sup>37</sup> He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. <sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. **Stay here and keep watch with me.**"