

MAS Mentoring

First Term: Meeting One

Preparation

- Read chapter one in *The Holiness of God* by R.C. Sproul and answer the questions at the end of the chapter.
- Contact your student ahead of time, letting them know you are looking forward to your upcoming meeting.
- Pray for your student and pray about your meeting.

Meeting

1. Open with prayer.
2. Ask them, “Is there anything you want to make sure we talk about today”?
3. Discuss *The Holiness of God*. Share with each other your answers from the chapter.
4. Discuss with them **Devotion** (see below). Do they have a daily practice? If so, what do they tend to “do”? Perhaps you can share your practice. You can also ask, “Is there any way I can be of assistance”?
5. Ask them if there is anything specific you could be praying for?
6. Close in prayer. Either one of you can pray.

Devotion

For this academic year (this includes four terms), the focus is on the knowledge and worship of God. Of course, the focus should always be there. For the seminary experience, we will emphasize two things here: One, we are reading Sproul’s book, “The Holiness of God.” Two, we are encouraging each student to have a daily rhythm of being in God’s Word and taking time to pray. Now, this may look different for each person regarding when, where, and how long, and it does not have to be identical each day. The intention is to practice it daily.

The practice may be new for some (perhaps you too) whereas others may already have this as a regular routine. If you do have a regular practice or routine here, you are welcome to share what you do. However, we suggest there be flexibility here, meaning their (the student’s) practice may look different. One person may be at their “study” quietly meditating, another taking a walk (listening to Scripture) and someone else having that time with another person. There is not a one size fits all. The point is taking time to meet with God.

It is important to understand these two “disciplines” are designed to encourage and nurture the relationship with our God. Of course, we recognize His Spirit is at work in us, so we believe this is not all up to us. Our God has begun a good work in us (Phil. 1:6) and he continues his work according to his good pleasure. (Phil. 2:13) It is also important to understand the “disciplines” do not merit favor with God. We already have his favor, because we are in Christ. So, God does not love us anymore if we do take the time, nor does He promise to eliminate trials from our lives, because we are meeting with him.

Part of what we want to stay away from is a type of legalism. The intent is to meet with God but there may be days (for whatever reason) that does not happen. The point is we are not keeping score here and more importantly, we don’t believe God is either. No. We approach it this way. The Father is there to commune with you and if you miss the time, our God is not scolding you. He wants to be with you and we rejoice we can take the time.

Also, we recognize the time with God is not limited to **Devotion**. People will often say, I talk to (or with) God throughout my day. I’m not limited to a specific time.” Absolutely. Still, we are going to encourage a specific time of **Devotion**.

On a practical level, there are plenty of helps and resources out there. We encourage people to find what is “comfortable” for them. What helps them? Also, if people are not used to a regular time, we encourage them to start small. For instance, even five minutes a day would be a good start.

Examples of Devotion Practices

If the student is not familiar with Devotion practices, here are a few suggested ideas:

- Read one Psalm and pray through it, thanking God for who he is. Also, there may be prayers that arise from reading the Psalm.
- Read a chapter from the Scripture. Focus on a verse or passage and write down any observations.
- Pray through the Lord’s Prayer
- Read a devotional guide. (*Handbook to Prayer* by Kenneth Boa is an excellent guide.)
- Listen to a devotional App. (For example, *Lectio 365* typically will have ten to twelve minute devotionals in the morning.)