

Make a Habit of Spending Time with God by Carol Smith (*This article is courtesy of HomeLife magazine.*)

Do you ever feel weary of spending time with God? Oh, you might not say it that way — and you might not say it out loud — but if we're honest, we'd all admit to experiencing seasons when time spent in prayer or Scripture reading feels more like a boring chore than an intimate connection with the living God.

Maybe we still have our "quiet time" or devotional time or whatever we call it — perhaps out of guilt or because we're afraid not to. Or maybe we don't because it feels like wasted time.

Still, deep down we desperately desire to connect with our Creator. And He wants to connect with us. Figuring out how to do that seems difficult, though. After all, God is God. He's huge and mysterious and greater than us. He's everywhere, yet He's invisible. So, we don't connect with God in quite the same way we would with a friend at a coffee shop. Yet He asks us to come and spend time with Him.

So how do we, in the words of Philip Yancey, "reach for the invisible God?" The answer is simple enough: We make it a habit. The trick seems to be keeping our intentional efforts from becoming empty rituals that contain our spiritual efforts rather than enliven them.

Finding a rhythm

John Ortberg, author of *The Life You've Always Wanted*, says consistent spiritual discipline becomes, "a rhythm for living in which we can grow more intimately connected to God."

Through it, we're actually tapping into our source of strength, faith, and joy. It's how we see our lives changed in ways that can seem hard to believe. We become more like God's children as we spend time with Him (see Romans 8:29).

Spending time in God's Word isn't about gaining more knowledge. One thing we understand in this information age is how to absorb a set of facts, but our faith is more than a set of beliefs. It's about getting to know Someone as real as the person next to us, yet as mysterious as the universe (see Psalm 25:4).

Practicing the presence of God

Practicing. That means it's ongoing and we'll never get it "perfect." But we acknowledge the God we don't see — and sometimes don't feel — is with us. The question becomes, then, how do we practice?

We schedule time. It takes effort to find the time and energy to connect with God on a regular basis - just as it does with any relationship that matters. The truth is we can find a few minutes to be alone with God, but we have to be intentional. Think of it as though you're scheduling an appointment on your calendar to meet a friend.

We strive to be consistent. Commitment to faith is not reflected in the number of days we can check time with God off on our calendars; nevertheless, it does matter that we consistently set aside time to sit with Him. Consistency doesn't mean a boring routine either. Don't be afraid to change your habits. What time of day offers you the best chance to have a clear mind and the ability to focus? Are you still using the same devotional guide even though its message doesn't meet you where you are? Have you been doing the same thing for years because someone said it was the best way? Decide what works (or doesn't) for you. Explore a new strategy, and don't give up if it seems hard at first.

We get quiet. Christ often went to solitary places to pray (see Matthew 14:23; Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12). Maybe leaving the house to find solitude isn't realistic, but we can all find ways to shut out the noise and put ourselves in a position to hear God. In fact, it's essential.

Developing fresh habits

There are many ways to focus your mind on "what is above" (see Colossians 3:1-2). If you're feeling a bit stuck, try developing fresh habits. Whether you're getting back to spiritual disciplines, just starting out, or in the middle of a long run, here are some ideas you may want to try:

- Write a prayer that expresses your heartfelt desire to follow God in this season of your life. If you keep it somewhere close, then you have a starting point for your daily time with God.
- Read one Psalm each day.
- Use a journal. You can write your prayers to God. You can list concerns or what you're grateful for. You can write the first thing that comes to mind when you consider what God is doing in your life.
- Stop and listen. Too often we feel we aren't doing anything if we aren't doing anything. That's not true. Sit before God in silence, inviting Him to recalibrate your soul (see Psalm 46:10).
- Practice posturing. Allow your body to reflect your heart. Bow low in humility before God, get on your knees in prayer, or hold your hands out in acknowledgement that anything you receive comes from God.
- Get a Bible dictionary and read some background information about the Bible passage you're reading. Understand more about the ears those words first fell on. You might read something in a whole new light (see Psalm 119:33-35).
- Think more deeply about small bits. Let that one verse roll around in your mind for a few minutes instead of reading five more verses. Give God room to surprise you with insight. If you read only three verses in that sitting, that's OK (see Psalm 119:47-48).
- Pray Scripture back to God. Pick a passage and pray the same one for a week at a time, allowing it to fully sink in.
- Get really honest with God. Let go of old ideas about how you "should" approach God. Pour out your heart to Him (see Psalm 62:8). Trust Him to be big enough to handle whatever you're dealing with.

Each moment is another opportunity to reconnect with God, step away from the same old routine, and invite Him to do a new thing in our lives.

Ideas to Make Your Quiet Time Meaningful

1. **Establish a regular place and time** – We are creatures of habit. If we know when and where we will meet with God daily we are much more likely to do it. Build it into your daily schedule. If this is new for you, start small, commit to it and God will grow it.
2. **Organize your “tool” box** – Gather your tools (Bible, reading plan, journal, pen, etc.) and keep them together in your designated spot so you’ll always be prepared. I’ve found having a reading plan greatly increases the chance of me staying in the Word regularly. Without a plan, reading stays haphazard at best. Here are [several different plans](#) that would take you through the year.
3. **Minimize Distractions** – Though it’s not possible to eliminate them all, we can take steps to help maintain our focus. Email and social media are my biggest distractions. I had to determine not to open my laptop until after my quiet time. What competes for your attention the most?
4. **Start with prayer** – Ask God to speak to you and help you understand His Word today. Thank Him for meeting with you.
5. **Begin to read the Bible** – Remember your purpose is to communicate with God. The Bible is the primary way God speaks to us. Don’t read hastily just to get through the passage. Let God stop you.
6. **Meditate on the passage** – Meditation is not emptying your mind. It is deep thinking on spiritual truths. As you read, linger over verses that impact you. Ask God questions and “listen” for His answers.
7. **Pray as you read** – Time with God should be interactive. Respond to God as He speaks to you through His Word. Reading and praying creates a conversation with God.
8. **Sit still in God’s presence** – We are products of our rushed, busy culture. Unfortunately, this tendency affects our time with God. We often rush through so we can get on with the next thing. I am certainly guilty of this. Commit to purposefully slow down! Sense God’s presence? Then simply sit still and be with Him.
9. **Journal** – Read with pen in hand. Record what God says to you and how you will respond. Writing can help you stay focused on God and His voice. You can also read your thoughts later to be reminded of something God taught you, an answered prayer, a time you felt His presence, etc.
10. **Memorize** – Commit to memorize verses God calls special attention to. Knowing Scripture by heart helps us guard against sin, reminds us of God’s promises, provides guidance, and allows us to meditate on God’s Word anywhere and anytime.
11. **Application** – Apply to your life whatever God says to you through prayer and His Word. It may be repentance. It may be a change in behavior. It may be a specific action.

How to Create Quiet Time with the Lord

There are a few things you need to do in order to properly prepare for quiet time with the Lord. First, you need to pick out the best time of day to have your quiet time. This could be in the morning, afternoon, or evening. Most people have quiet time with the Lord in the morning, but you can pick whatever time works best for you.

The Bible tells us that God hears us no matter what time we call out to Him as [Psalm 55:17](#) says, “Evening, morning and noon I cry out in distress, and he hears my voice.”

Maybe morning is the best time for you because everyone else is asleep. Maybe the afternoon is better during your lunch break. Or maybe right before you go to sleep is the best time for you.

No matter what you choose, make sure you intentionally take some time out each day to devote to quiet time with the Lord. Secondly, you have to choose what will be the best location for your quiet time (Ibid.). Some people choose to have quiet time at their kitchen table while some people prefer to cozy up in their favorite armchair.

You could even have quiet time outdoors in your garden if you focus better outdoors. Whether you pick an indoor or outdoor location, make sure it is a place where you can stay fully focused on the Lord. Do not pick a place that can steal your attention away, such as in front of your computer with incoming work emails, a busy coffee shop, or driving down the highway.

Choose a place where you can clearly focus on the Lord and give Him all of your attention. If you are creative, you could even create a “quiet time room” in which you dedicate a room to have your quiet time in. This way when you are in your quiet time room, people will know not to disturb you.

Wherever you pick to conduct your quiet time, make sure it is a place where you can stay focused on the Lord. Lastly, you need to decide how long your quiet time will last (Ibid.). You can spend anywhere from 15 minutes to longer in your quiet time with the Lord.

You can choose to spend five to ten minutes praying and then read a chapter out of a selected book of the Bible for five to ten minutes. Then, make sure you give yourself some time to meditate on what you just learned. Start off slow and work your way up to spending more time with the Lord. As you grow to know Him better, the longer you will want to spend time with Him.

What Else Do I Need?

For quiet time, you will need your willing heart, a Bible, and possibly a devotional book if you are interested in reading through a devotional book. When you begin reading the Bible, you can start off with Genesis and work your way through the Bible or you could use a Bible reading plan.

You could also work on different books of the Bible through the Holy Spirit’s guidance. Ensure your heart is in the right place before you go to God in prayer. Do not mindlessly enter quiet time and recite prayers you may have learned from others. Go to the Lord and be raw, genuine, and open in your prayers.

After you have read the Bible and prayed to the Lord, meditate on what you have learned (Ibid.). Take a few extra minutes to digest what you have learned and how you can apply it in your daily life. The Bible is not meant to just be read over quickly and then you move on with the rest of your day.

The Bible is meant to be studied, understood, and applied in your daily life. Quiet time is extremely important and should not be neglected for any reason. Though at times, it is understandable that you may be in a hurry, make sure you still take time to talk with God in prayer and try to read at least a small segment of the Bible.

The Bible is the only way the Lord communicates to us today and in order to hear from Him, we have to read it, study it, and meditate on it. If you take time to participate in quiet time each day, you will learn more about God, deepen your relationship with Him, and grow to become more like Him.

As you grow in your Christian walk, you will hunger for your quiet time with the Lord each day. You might even decide to wake up early each day in order to have a longer quiet time with the Lord because time with the Lord is sweeter than a few extra minutes of sleep.

Key Steps To Help You Have A Successful Quiet Time With God, by Shannon Jacobs

A quiet time with God is a time of intentional prayer and reflection on His Word to develop spiritual growth and a relationship with Him. It's more than just reading the Bible, although that is an important part of it.

This intentional time allows us to spend quality time alone with God so we can get to know Him better, be still before Him, and appreciate His presence in our lives. Through this practice, we can learn to draw closer to Him and understand what He has put into practice for us.

What Is A Quiet Time With God?

A quiet time with God is a personal spiritual discipline for Christians in which one sets aside intentional time to spend alone with God. It's an opportunity for devoted followers of Jesus Christ to draw close to Him through prayerful reflection on His words and presence. During this sacred time, we seek to hear from God by reading and studying Scripture, praying, and pondering how to apply it to our lives.

In the Bible, we find many examples of people who experienced a quiet time with God. God called Moses to come up to Mount Sinai for 40 days and nights to receive instructions on how to lead the Israelites as they journeyed from Egypt into their promised land (Exodus 24:12–18). Jesus often withdrew from the crowds to be alone with His Father in prayer, and it's clear that He found strength and solace during these times of solitude (Luke 5:16).

We believers also need evening or morning quiet time with God. In his epistle, Peter wrote of the need to be “strengthened by God’s power in your inner being” (Ephesians 3:16). When we focus on Scripture and prayer, our spirits are lifted, and we gain strength through a deeper personal relationship with Him. We can become more aware of His presence and develop greater faith in Him.

God also wants us to have quiet time with Him because He desires for us to know Him and His will for our lives. In Jeremiah, the Lord said, “Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom, or the strong man boast of his strength, or the rich man boast of his riches, but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord” (Jeremiah 9:23–24).

How To Have A Quiet Time With God

Having a quiet time with God can be a significant and transformative experience. It is typically a time of prayer, reflection, Bible study, and meditation as we seek to draw closer to our Creator. While the specifics may vary from person to person, there are some key steps to help you have a successful quiet time with God.

1. Prepare Your Heart

Before you even begin your quiet time, take some moments to pause and set the stage. This can include praying, focusing your attention on God, or meditating on a Bible verse to get into the right frame of mind.

2. Read And Study Scripture

Once you're ready, start your time with God by reading a passage from the Bible. As you read, take note of any words or ideas that stand out to you—use them as prompts for further study and reflection.

3. Pray And Reflect

Once you're done studying, spend some time praying and reflecting on what you've just read. Ask God to apply this truth to your life, and thank Him for His Word. You can also use this time to ask Him questions or share any concerns you may have.

4. Listen

Once you've finished praying, take some moments to sit in quiet anticipation of how God might be speaking to you through the words of the Bible or your own prayers. Hear God's voice, and allow Him to guide you in whatever direction He wishes.

5. Capture And Apply

Finally, take note of any lessons or insights God may have shared with you during your quiet time. Make sure to write them down so you can remember them later, and then apply these truths as you go through your day. Having a quiet time with God can be an incredibly meaningful and transformative experience as we draw nearer to Jesus and His Word takes root in our hearts. By following these basic steps, you can experience the fullness of all that God has for you!

Why Is A Quiet Time With God Important?

Having quiet time with God is an important practice that helps us draw closer to Him and form an intimate relationship with Him. It expresses our devotion, love, and surrender to God by taking the time to be still before Him and listen for His voice. A quiet time with God allows us to receive personal guidance from Him, granting us unique insight regarding our lives and how to live with purpose.

In Psalm 46:10, it says, "Be still, and know that I am God." It reminds us that by taking the time to spend quiet time with Him, we become aware of God's presence in our lives and understand who He is and His perfect plan for us. This can help us trust Him more deeply, knowing that He will always be there with us no matter what we go through.

A quiet time with God also allows us to draw closer to Him by spending personal time in prayer, meditation, and reading Scripture. Praying helps us express our needs and desires to God, while meditating on Scripture gives us insight into His character, enabling us to gain a stronger understanding of who He is. Reading the Bible helps us apply God's Word to our lives and act according to His will.

Taking time for a quiet time with God also brings power into our lives. James 4:8 says, "Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you" (ESV). When we take the time to draw closer to Him, His Spirit dwells within us. This fills us with strength, courage, peace, and joy so we can boldly proclaim His love in every area of our lives.

What Do You Need For A Good Quiet Time With God?

A great starting point for having a good quiet time with God is **understanding the purpose** of spending time in this way. Quiet times with God should be about communion with Him, listening to His voice, and being still before Him. It should not be about checking items off a list or trying to accomplish something. Keeping this in mind will help ensure that your quiet time is meaningful and beneficial.

The next item to consider is making sure you have **the right environment**. Finding a place where you can be away from distractions and interruptions is important. This could be anywhere from your bedroom, to a quiet corner of your house, to a park or other outdoor space. Wherever you choose, make sure it is peaceful and conducive to spending time in prayer and Bible study.

In addition to the right environment, **having the right tools available** makes for a great quiet time with God. This could include items like Bibles, devotionals, journals, and pens. Having these things available makes it easier to jump into the Word or record thoughts and revelations as they come.

Once you have the right environment and tools, the next step is to **make sure that your heart is prepared**. God should be your first love, so you must approach Him with an attitude of worship and reverence. Take time to ask Him for forgiveness and cleanse yourself of any unconfessed sin. This will help ensure that you can stay focused on Him and be fully present in your quiet time.

What Disciplines Should Be Part Of A Quiet Time With God?

A quiet time with God should include a variety of disciplines that help us deepen our relationship with and understanding of Him. While there is no single formula to follow, the Bible offers guidance in several key areas that can be adopted as part of regular practice.

Prayer

The first discipline necessary for a meaningful quiet time with God is prayer. Prayer is the most direct way to communicate with God and can be used for both thanksgiving and requests. It is a powerful tool that demonstrates our trust in Him and allows us to pour our hearts into Him as we would with a close friend.

Scripture

Another important discipline during a quiet time with God is Scripture reading. We must first understand the Word of God in order to apply it to our lives. The Bible is filled with powerful and life-changing truths, so reading it regularly is essential to growing closer to God.

Meditation

Meditation is also an important tool for having a quiet time with God. It involves focusing on Scripture, reflecting on its meaning, and seeing how it applies to our lives. As we meditate, we can ask God to speak to us and open our hearts to His will.

The Benefits Of A Quiet Time With God

Having quiet time with God is an invaluable part of a life of faith. It helps us to slow down and spend time in the presence of God, where we can be still and know that He is God (Psalm 46:10). Quiet time allows us to reflect on what truly matters, draw closer to our heavenly Father, and receive the guidance, strength, and peace that only He can provide.

Having regular quiet time with God isn't just about being still for a few minutes every day (although this is important), but it's also about actively engaging in prayerful conversations with Him. We express our needs and desires to God through prayer, but we also listen. As we listen, God reveals His heart and His will for us. We must be willing to sit in the silence of His presence and wait for Him to reveal Himself to us (Isaiah 30:15).

Having a quiet time with God helps us develop our relationship with Him. It is an opportunity to express our love for God and receive His love in return. It is a way for us to discover more about who we are in Christ and an opportunity to deepen our knowledge of Him (Ephesians 3:17–19). We can also use this time to meditate on the Word of God and review any guidance He has given us.

Spending quiet time with God also helps us become more aware of the Spirit's prompting in our lives (John 16:8–15). The Holy Spirit reveals God's will to us and gives us wisdom, comfort, encouragement, and strength as we pursue it. As we spend more time with God, we become increasingly sensitive to His voice and leading in our lives.

Tips For Creating An Effective Quiet Time Routine

Do you feel like your relationship with God has been lacking lately? If so, creating a regular morning routine with quiet time can be a great way to draw closer to Him and infuse spiritual renewal into your own life. Through carving out intentional space for spending time with God, you will find the peace and joy that come from a deepening relationship with Him. Creating an effective quiet time routine can be a great way to draw closer to God while also creating a regular space in your life for spiritual renewal. To create an effective quiet time routine, several components should be present.

Plan Your Quiet Time

The first step in creating an effective quiet-time routine is to plan it out. Taking the time to plan ahead can help ensure that your routine is manageable, accessible, and purposeful. When planning your quiet time, consider the following:

- How much time can you reasonably commit to spending in quiet time?
- What are the resources you will need or want to use, such as the Bible, journal, or devotional book?
- What are the best times of day that work for your schedule and energy levels?
- Would it be helpful to plan out specific activities for daily quiet times, or just explore them as you go?

Create A Space

The next step in creating an effective quiet time routine is to create a space for it. Having a specific place where you can retreat and spend time with God can provide additional motivation to engage in regular quiet times. Consider the following when deciding on the best location:

- Where is the most comfortable and peaceful spot in your home?
- What kind of environment do you need to feel connected to God during quiet time (i.e., music or candles)?
- Do you prefer being alone or having someone nearby while engaging in quiet time?
- Do you need privacy for your quiet time, or would it be helpful to have others around?

Focus On The Word

A key component of an effective quiet time routine is focusing on the Word. Reading and meditating on Scripture can help bring you closer to God and deepen your understanding of His truth. Consider doing the following during your quiet time:

- Reading a passage or section of Scripture slowly and intentionally.
- Writing down any keywords, phrases, or verses that stand out to you in the text.
- Jotting down insights, questions, and reflections that come to mind while reading the passage.
- Taking time to pray through the passage and its implications in your life.

Be Intentional In Your Time

The final component of creating an effective quiet time routine is to be intentional in your time with God. This can look different for everyone, but some helpful practices include:

- Taking time to listen to God's voice and being open to what He is saying.
- Journaling about your prayers, thoughts, and reflections during quiet time.
- Taking pauses for silence or prayer in between activities.
- Being intentional with how you spend your time by carving out specific blocks for different activities (i.e., reading the Word, journaling, and praying).

The Praying Example of Susanna Wesley by Jackie Green And Lauren Green-Mcafee

If a passing stranger walking through the rural village of Epworth, England, on any given day between 1700 and 1720 had peered through the window of the home of the rector of the local Anglican church, he might have caught sight of something quite strange. Depending on the time of day, this observer might have seen a woman sitting in a chair with her kitchen apron pulled up over her head while ten children read, studied, or played all around her.

Two of those ten children would have been little boys — John and Charles — who would grow up to shape the course of Christian history and thus change the world. The woman under the apron would have been Susanna Wesley, who assumed this odd posture for two hours almost every day. In a moment you will understand why.

Susanna understood the dynamics of large families. Born the twenty-fifth of twenty-five children in 1669, Susanna Annesley grew up the daughter of a prominent, highly educated minister in cosmopolitan London. She had little formal education, but growing up in an academic household with so many older siblings left her well-read and well-rounded intellectually. She met Samuel Wesley, an aspiring Anglican minister, and married him in 1688, when she was nineteen years old.

Susanna's remaining fifty-three years were far from easy ones. They were characterized by loss, hardship, and struggle. Yet she became a woman of immense legacy, largely through the dual virtues of organization and prayer.

Susanna delivered nineteen children, but nine — including two sets of twins — died in infancy. Another was accidentally smothered in the night by a nurse as Susanna recovered from labor and delivery.

Her husband, Samuel, did not succeed in his thirty-nine-year assignment as rector of the church at Epworth. An intellectual academic, he simply did not understand or identify with the rural villagers in his parish. Nor did they care for him. When he involved himself from the pulpit in a highly divisive political matter inflaming the entire nation in that era, he earned the hatred of a vast segment of the populace. On two occasions the Wesleys' parsonage burned down, most likely because of arson on the part of Epworth's embittered parishioners. Susanna and the children were seldom spared harassment and insults.

Samuel was not good with money, and he once spent several months in debtors' prison. The parsonage came with a small farm, but Samuel was uninterested in and ill-suited for farm work, so this too was left for Susanna to manage. This was in addition to the huge task of homeschooling all of the children, with their varying ages and gifts.

For decades, Samuel expended all of his energies and most of the family's meager wealth working on an exegetical treatise on the book of Job. The sad irony is that while he was away for long periods of time studying and writing about Job's intense sufferings, his living, breathing wife was enduring real pain and hardship, largely on her own.

Susanna's household organizational skills are the stuff of legend. She knew from personal experience that quality one-on-one time with a parent is hard to come by in a family with many children, yet powerfully important. So she set a rotating schedule through which each of her children spent an hour with her alone before bedtime on a designated night each week.

What is more, she somehow found a way to manage the household and give her large brood of children a world-class education that included both classical and biblical learning. Her girls got the same rigorous education as did her boys, something virtually unheard of in that day. Traditionally, girls of that place and time were taught “feminine” skills such as needlework and music before undertaking the most basic education, such as learning to read. Susanna firmly believed this was wrong-headed. Her girls were taught the same curriculum as her boys. Among the “bylaws” by which she ran her home school was this: “8. That no girl be taught to work till she can read very well; and then that she be kept to her work with the same application, and for the same time, that she was held to in reading. This rule also is much to be observed; for the putting of children to learn sewing before they can read perfectly, is the very reason why so few women can read fit to be heard, and never to be well understood.”

School hours were from 9:00 a.m. to noon and then 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., six days a week. All but the smallest children completed their assigned chores promptly before the start of the school day. As in many one-room schoolhouses in generations past, older children helped teach the younger.

No Excuse for Not Praying!

Susanna took her relationship to God as seriously as she did her duties as a wife and mother.

Early in her life, she vowed that she would never spend more time in leisure entertainment than she did in prayer and Bible study. Even amid the most complex and busy years of her life as a mother, she still scheduled two hours each day for fellowship with God and time in His Word, and she adhered to that schedule faithfully. The challenge was finding a place of privacy in a house filled to overflowing with children.

Mother Wesley’s solution to this was to bring her Bible to her favorite chair and throw her long apron up over her head, forming a sort of tent. This became something akin to the “tent of meeting,” the tabernacle in the days of Moses in the Old Testament. Every person in the household, from the smallest toddler to the oldest domestic helpers, knew well to respect this signal. When Susanna was under the apron, she was with God and was not to be disturbed except in the case of the direst emergency. There in the privacy of her little tent, she interceded for her husband and children and plumbed the deep mysteries of God in the Scriptures. This holy discipline equipped her with a thorough and profound knowledge of the Bible.

Prayer Leads to Teaching

When husband Samuel was away, as was often the case, a substitute minister brought the Sunday morning sermon at the church. Susanna found these messages uninspiring and lacking in spiritual meat. She had a good-sized congregation of her own at home, so she began teaching them the Bible in her kitchen on Sunday afternoons. Soon neighbors began asking if they could attend. Word circulated and others from the area began asking permission to attend as well. So thorough was Susanna’s knowledge of the Bible, and so gifted was she at communicating its truths, that on any given Sunday after church, Susanna would have as many as two hundred people in attendance at her informal family Bible study, which started in her home but soon moved to a larger venue.

Susanna passed away in 1742 at the age of seventy-three, living long enough to see her sons John and Charles become world-renowned leaders of the global Christian movement. This is her legacy, forged in large part in those diligent hours of intercession under that makeshift apron tent.

The Lasting Legacy of Prayer

John Wesley is estimated to have preached to nearly a million people in his long, fruitful life.

His powerful, evangelistic services were frequently held in the open air to accommodate audiences in the tens of thousands. Traveling on horseback, he regularly preached three or more times a day, often beginning before daybreak. Even at the age of seventy he preached, without the assistance of modern amplification, to an estimated throng of thirty-two thousand people.

John's younger brother Charles was very much a partner in and vital contributor to these accomplishments. A brilliant musician and lyricist, he wrote more than 6,600 hymns, many of which are still in hymnals the world over today.

John and Charles Wesley were passionate lovers of God and powerful persuaders of people.

In his 1864 biography, John Kirk wrote of Susanna, "Her name has been everywhere received with respect; and by a large and influential Christian Community it has been cherished with strongest affection. Her success in the education of her children has been the theme of universal admiration; and no one has yet ventured to hazard even a conjecture as to how much the cause of religion and the well-being of the human race are indebted to her steady piety and extraordinary talents."

We hope that as you read [the story of] Susanna Wesley, you'll grab on to the power of them. For Susanna Wesley, there was no amount of distraction that could keep her from prayer and the Bible. That kind of life, deeply rooted, produced great fruit, as evidenced not only by the people who came to hear her teach but also by the children she influenced. The great truth in her story is how prayer does not occupy the stage of activity. Its power is in the quiet trust of gentle souls who are willing to pull away from the everyday to commune with God.

<https://lavendervines.com/how-make-time-god/>

<https://thinkaboutsuchthings.com/how-to-make-time-for-god/>

<https://www.lifeway.com/en/articles/christian-living-discipleship-spending-time-with-god>