

How to begin a relationship with God

(scripture taken from the NIV)

1. Recognize that God loves you so much that He gave His Son to die on the cross for you.

“For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life

“I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.”- Galatians 2:20

2. Repent of your sin. This means to admit to God you are a sinner, ask forgiveness of your sins and with His help, turn away from your sins.

“...but unless you repent, you too will all perish.” – Luke 13:3

“The kingdom God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”- Mark 1:15

3. Believe and Trust in Him as your Savior.

This means that you accept God’s offer of love, mercy, and forgiveness. This means that you trust Jesus Christ as your only Savior. This means that you are free from struggling and trying to save yourself by your good works, baptism, confirmation, church membership or attendance, and that you rely on Jesus Christ alone for your salvation.

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord!” – Romans 6:23

“For by grace you have been saved through faith-and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- not by works, so that no one can boast.” Ephesians 2:8, 9

“Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.” John 1:12

4. Confess Christ. This means that you will not be ashamed to let others know that you are a Christian and have a relationship with God. When you trust in Christ, you should let someone else know about it.

“Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven.” Matthew 10:32

“That is you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9

YOU CAN NOW BEGIN A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

Lord, I admit that I need you, I ask you to forgive and set me free from sin and death. I believe that Jesus died to provide forgiveness for my sins to restore my relationship with You, and to fill me with His joy. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ to come into my life as Savior and Lord. From this time on, help me to live in a loving, obedient relationship with you. Thank You, Lord!

If you prayed to the Lord and genuinely meant what you prayed, please share your decision with Pastor or someone else you know who trusts in Jesus. They would be thrilled to hear of your decision today!

Finding Jesus this Christmas

December 2, 2018

Pastor Scott Sheets

Silence

Luke 1:5-20; Ps. 46

How can silence help us find Jesus?

Silence Provides O _____ to L _____

Silence shifts F _____ from C _____ to G _____

Conclusion:

(All services are recorded and available online at www.riversideefc.com)

Luke 1:5-20 (ESV)

Discussion Questions

1. Do you enjoy times of silence or do they bother you? Explain.
2. Do you feel periods of silence are easy or difficult to manage this day and age?
3. What do you feel are the greatest hindrances to times of silence before God in your life?
4. What were some of the hindrances in Psalm 46?
5. Read 1 Kings 19:9-13. Why do you think Elijah did not respond to the acts of power? Where did God show up?
6. Do you think at times we may be looking for Jesus in the wrong places? Explain.
7. Share any other thoughts, questions, or comments you might have?

5In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. **6**And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. **7**But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

8Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, **9**according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. **10**And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. **11**And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. **12**And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. **13**But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. **14**And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, **15**for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. **16**And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, **17**and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

18And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." **19**And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. **20**And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time."