

LISTENER GUIDE

Seeking Him Together for Spiritual Awakening

by Nancy Leigh DeMoss (True Woman '12)

We were created to _____ (Acts 17:26–27).

- God wants to be found. His goal is not to hide from us, but to _____ Himself.
- However, there's a _____ (Ps. 10:4; Rom. 3:10–11).
- We cannot seek Him apart from being quickened and awakened by His Spirit.
- If He didn't first seek us, no one would ever seek after Him. We are prone to seek everything but Him.
- God seeks after us when we are lost.
- Our seeking after God is always in response to His initiative. He initiates relationship with us.

What does it mean to seek the Lord?

Seek: “to go in search or quest of; to make inquiry; to try to find or discover by searching or questions”

To seek Him means:

- To _____ Him so much that we proactively set out to know Him, walk with Him.
- To _____ our hearts toward Him, to live in His presence, listen to Him, learn from Him.
- To _____ of Him, seek His direction, wisdom, understanding, perspective.
- To _____ Him for who He is, not primarily for His gifts or for what He can do for us.
- To set our _____ and _____ on that which is eternal, rather than temporal.

How are we to seek the Lord?

- _____ (1 Chron. 22:19). Not an emotion, but a conscious, deliberate choice to set our attention and affections on Him.
- _____ (Deut. 4:29). The earnestness of which we seek anything reveals the value that we place on what we are seeking.
- _____ (1 Chron. 16:11). In every season of life, in good times and bad.

What keeps us from seeking Him?

Some examples:

- Self-sufficiency
- Busyness
- Distractions
- Substitutes—things we desire and long for more than we desire Him.
- Possessions
- Money
- Physical beauty
- Comfort
- Relief, escape from pressure
- Approval and acceptance
- Praise
- Relationships
- Longing for a mate
- Fear of intimacy
- Bitterness
- Disappointment with God or others
- No relationship with Him

How do we identify what are the substitutes for God in our lives?

Ask yourself:

- What do I _____ for?
- What do I _____ ?
- What do I _____ my time in?
- What do I _____ ?
- What do I _____ on?
- What do I _____ on?
- What will I go to great lengths to _____ or _____ ?
- What do I devote my _____, _____, and _____ to?

What does it look like to seek the Lord above all else in our lives?

Examples of two women in the Bible.

First—the bride in the Song of Solomon

- 3:1—She's _____ her beloved.
- 3:1–3—She's _____ her beloved.
- 3:4—She _____ her beloved.
- An evidence that we love Christ, that we belong to Him, is that we seek Him
- We're not going to find Him if we're not willing to rise up out of our current circumstances to find Him.
- It's a focused and intense search—it doesn't just happen. Need to turn our attention away from other things to focus on Jesus.

- Friends and spiritual leaders are helpful, but they can't restore our intimacy with Christ.
- Those who seek and keep seeking will find.
- Having found Him doesn't mean you stop pursuing Him.

Second example—Mary (Luke 10:38–42)

- Martha was _____ the Lord but not _____ Him. In contrast, Mary fixed her gaze on Jesus.
- Everything else can wait. Nothing mattered more to Mary than seeking the Lord.
- According to God's Word, we're either _____ Him or _____ Him—there's no middle ground.

When you have a choice, will you seek Him or other things? Will you say “no” to those things that keep you from seeking Him?

What happens when you seek Him? You get joy, satisfaction, your deepest needs will be met, your heart's longings will be fulfilled. Why? Because when you seek Him, you will find Him. And all we need is found in Him. If you have Him, you have everything else that you could ever need.

LISTENER GUIDE ANSWER KEY

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We were created to seek Him (Acts 17:26–27).

- God wants to be found. His goal is not to hide from us, but to reveal Himself.
- However, there's a universal condition (Ps. 10:4; Rom. 3:10–11).
- We cannot seek Him apart from being quickened and awakened by His Spirit.
- If He didn't first seek us, no one would ever seek after Him. We are prone to seek everything *but* Him.
- God seeks after us when we are lost.
- Our seeking after God is always in response to His initiative. He initiates relationship with us.

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Seek: “to go in search or quest of; to make inquiry; to try to find or discover by searching or questions”

To seek Him means:

- To prize Him so much that we proactively set out to know Him, walk with Him.
- To incline our hearts toward Him, to live in His presence, listen to Him, learn from Him.
- To inquire of Him, seek His direction, wisdom, understanding, perspective.
- To desire Him for who He is, not primarily for His gifts or for what He can do for us.
- To set our hearts and hope on that which is eternal, rather than temporal.
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How are we to seek the Lord?

- **Intentionally** (1 Chron. 22:19). Not an emotion, but a conscious, deliberate choice to set our attention and affections on Him.
- **Wholeheartedly** (Deut. 4:29). The earnestness of which we seek anything reveals the value that we place on what we are seeking.
- **Continually** (1 Chron. 16:11). In every season of life, in good times and bad.

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- No relationship with Him

How do we identify what are the substitutes for God in our lives? Ask yourself:

- What do I long for?
- What do I crave?
- What do I invest my time in?
- What do I pursue?
- What do I meditate on?
- What do I dwell on?
- What will I go to great lengths to obtain or avoid?
- What do I devote my time, energy, and efforts to?

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