

The logo features the letters 'UC' in a bold, blocky font, followed by a vertical bar, and then the word 'RIO' in a tall, thin, serif font. All elements are white and centered on a black rectangular background.

UC|RIO

**UC University
Core Seminars**

Student Handout



Meeting with God Schedule

Class 1: Introduction: The What, Why and How of Meeting with God

Class 2: Meeting with God in His Word: Hearing and Reading

Class 3: Meeting with God in His Word: Studying, Meditating and Memorizing

Class 4: Meeting with God through Prayer

Class 5: Prayer, Hindrances and Practicalities

Meeting with God

Class 1: The What, Why, and How

Introduction

Two Assumptions:

- 1) That it is possible to meet with God.
- 2) That meeting with God is something we should do.

I. Assumption 1

“How does it appear that there is a God? Answer: The very light of nature in man, and the works of God, declare plainly that there is a God; but his Word and Spirit only do sufficiently and effectually reveal him unto men for their salvation.”

-Westminster Larger Catechism: Question 2

God reveals Himself in two ways:

1. General revelation

Psalm 19:1-2

Romans 1:19-20

2. Special revelation

Old Testament:

New Testament:

Today:

Five Things We Learn about Jesus from Scripture

1. He is the image of the invisible of God. (Colossians 1:15)
2. He was a prophet. (John 12:49-50)
3. He is a priest (mediator). (Hebrews 9:11-12)
4. He is King. (John 18:33-37)

5. He is God. (John 1:1)

But our sin separates us from God.

The New Testament establishes the means of restoration.

“Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

-Hebrews 4:16

II. Assumption 2

Reasons we should meet with God:

1. Because He is worthy.
2. Because we are His.
3. Because it leads us into a deeper relationship with Him.
4. Because it leads us to worship Him.
5. Because it helps us grow.
6. Because it helps us fight.

Hebrews 4:12 is a message of encouragement for the Christian to persevere.

III. How do we meet with God?

1. We meet with God through Jesus Christ, our mediator by faith.
2. We meet with God through scripture.
 - a. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
 - b. Scripture that speaks of itself.
 - i. Matthew 4:4
 - ii. Deuteronomy 8:3
 - iii. Romans 15:4
 - iv. Psalm 119

c. Mediation and self-examination

3. We meet with God through prayer.
4. We meet with God by coming together with the people of God.

Meeting with God

Class 2: Meeting with God in His Word

Introduction

A quiet time is the part of the day that we set aside for the worship of God, for the reading of the Word of God and for fellowship with God so that we would know Him more, know ourselves in light of Him, and know the world according to His perspective.

Hebrews 4:16, John 17:17

Psalm 119:57-64

1. God's word of promise to us is the foundation of our receiving grace from Him (v. 58).
2. God's word humbles us (v. 59).
3. God's word is more powerful than anyone who would come against us (v. 61)
4. God's word leads us to praise Him (vs. 62).
5. God's word leads us into the fellowship of the church (vs. 63).

I. Bible Intake

Five Means of Bible Intake

1. Hearing
2. Reading
3. Studying
4. Meditating
5. Memorizing

Hearing the Word

OT Example:

NT Example:

Benefits:

Ways to Improve:

- 1. Discuss with others**
- 2. Listen outside of Sunday mornings**

Reading the Word

“Let the man who would hear God speak, read the Holy Scripture.”

- Martin Luther

Scriptural Basis

Matthew 4:4

“Haven’t you read...?”

“It is written...”

Practical Suggestions

- 1. Find the time**

a. When?

b. How long?

2. Make a plan

3. Meditate

Meeting with God
**Class 3: Meeting with God in His Word,
Part 2**

Introduction/review: two assumptions for this course

A quiet time is the part of the day that we set aside for the worship of God, for the reading of the Word of God and for fellowship with God so that we would know Him more, know ourselves in light of Him, and know the world according to His perspective.

Bible Intake

Five Means of Bible Intake

1. Hearing the Word
2. Reading
3. Studying
4. Memorizing
5. Meditating

Key text for Bible intake: Psalms 1:1-3

Studying the Bible

Motorboat vs. Glass-bottomed boat

Ezra 7:10

What you need to study the Bible

- 1) A heart of prayer and humility
 - a. The Holy Spirit's role: illuminating (John 14:26)
 - b. A humble heart is amazed by God (Rom. 11:33-36)
- 2) A Bible – everything you need is in the text.

Inductive Bible study: observe, interpret, apply

- 1) **Observation – 6 Questions**

Romans 12:1

Who is speaking?

Who is he speaking to?

What is he saying?

Why is he telling them this?

How does he make his appeal?

2) Interpretation

Remember that context rules

Always seek the full counsel of God

Look for the single meaning of the passage

3) Application

James 1:22

Memorizing the Word

Benefits of Memorizing

Victory over sin – Psalm 119:11-13

Victory over Satan – Matthew 4:4

Preparation for witnessing and counseling – Proverbs 25:11

Tips for Memorizing

- 1) Pray
- 2) Set aside time
- 3) Repeat the text – *ten times read, ten times said*

- 4) Review
- 5) Have a plan
- 6) Memorize word for word

Meditating on the Bible

To engage in thought or contemplation; to reflect

Goal: not to *empty* our minds, but to *fill* them God's truth

Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1

Methods of Meditation:

Choose an impactful verse/passage

Reread/rewrite the verse/passage

Psalm 77:11-12

*Praise to the Lord, Who doth prosper thy work and defend thee
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
If with His love He befriend thee*

-Joachim Neander: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

1 Samuel 2:2

Meeting with God

Class 4: Meeting with God in Prayer

A quiet time is the part of the day that we set aside for the worship of God, for the reading of the Word of God and for fellowship with God so that we would know Him more, know ourselves in light of Him, and know the world according to His perspective.

Prayer is the Spirit-given, Word-saturated response, through communication, to dwelling on God.

A – Adoration

C – Confession

T – Thanksgiving

S – Supplication

Psalm 51

I. Prayer: A Trinitarian Framework

It is God's attribute to be a relational and communicative God.

John 17:24

A. The Basis of All Prayer: The Sonship of Jesus

Hebrews 4:14-16

Three reasons to have confidence that we can draw near to God:

- 1) Jesus is our high priest.
- 2) The acceptance that Jesus has with the Father is the acceptance that we now have in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21).
- 3) If God hears the prayers of Jesus, He will also hear our prayers through Jesus.

Romans 8:34 – Jesus intercedes for us

John 14:13 – Praying in the name of Jesus

B. The Source of All Prayer: The Fatherhood of God

“When you pray, say ‘Father, hallowed be your name...’”

- Luke 11:2

God the Father gives good gifts

Luke 11:11-13

James 1:17

C. The Enabling of All Prayer: The Power of the Holy Spirit

- 1) The Holy Spirit draws us to a saving faith in Christ.

John 3:5-6

John 16:7-11

- 2) The Holy Spirit assures us of our adoption in Christ.

Romans 8:16

Ephesians 1:13-14

- 3) The Holy Spirit intercedes for us before the Father.

Romans 8:26-27

II. The Word of God and Prayer

Why isn't prayer alone enough to sustain our fellowship with God?

“If prayer is not addressed to God in terms of what is real, it is a fantasy. The prior word of God is established from the outset as the ground for any human understanding of reality.”

- Graeme Goldsworthy

A. Reading God's Word makes us God-centered in our prayers

B. Reading God's Word helps us to pray according to His will.

Jesus, Our Example

“Now Jesus was praying in a certain place and when He finished, one of His disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.’”

- Luke 11:1

The Example of George Mueller

“And yet now, since God has taught me this point, it is as plain to me as anything that the first thing the child of God has to do morning by morning is to obtain food for his inner man. Now what is food for the inner man? Not prayer, but the Word of God; and here again, not the simple reading of the Word of God, so that it only passes through our minds, just as water passes through a piper, but considering what we read, pondering over it and applying it to our hearts.”

- George Mueller

Praying Scripture

Philippians 1:9-11

Psalm 51:1-4

Two Practical Suggestions:

- 1) Read through a Psalm a day.
- 2) Use Scripture to pray for other members of the church.

Meeting with God

Class 5: Prayer: Purposes, Pitfalls, & Practicalities

A quiet time is the part of the day that we set aside for the worship of God, for the reading of the Word of God and for fellowship with God so that we would know Him more, know ourselves in light of Him, and know the world according to His perspective.

Prayer is the *Spirit-given, Word-saturated* response, through communication, to meeting with God.

Praise / Confession / Thanksgiving / Supplication

Purposes of Prayer

- 1) To glorify God

John 14:13-14

- Pray in Jesus' name
- Our prayers will be answered
- God will be glorified

John 15:7-8

What does it mean for God to be glorified?

Revelation 21:23

- 2) To make God known in the world by our bearing the fruit of the gospel

John 15:16

- "...so that..."
- Bearing fruit (Galatians 5:22-23)

- 3) To have access to our great Commander in a time of war

- 2 Timothy 4:7

- 2 Timothy 2:3-4

We have an enemy: *Satan*

- 1 Peter 5:8
- 2 Corinthians 11:14

Selfishness and war: what or whom do you pray for most?

- Concern for others = a mark of a Christian
 - John 13:34-35: love for believers
 - Matthew 22:37-39: love for neighbor
- Prayer for other believers
 - Ephesians 6:17-18
- Prayer as a wartime walkie-talkie, *not* a domestic intercom
 - Ephesians 6:10-20

Pitfalls in meeting with God

(1) *Dependence on our emotions*

- Hitting a dry patch
- Wandering minds
- Seemingly unanswered prayers
- No desire to read the Bible or pray

Incline (Psalm 119:36)

Open (Psalm 119:18)

Unite (Psalm 86:11)

Satisfy (Psalm 90:14)

- Unrepentant sin/feelings of unworthiness

(2) *Legalism*

“Seeking to achieve forgiveness from God and acceptance by God through obedience.”

Justification – Being *declared* righteous by God: position before God

Sanctification – Being *made* righteous by God: process

(3) *Laziness*

The Roots of our Pitfalls: lack of desire for God

Practical Questions to Consider

- 1) What is one thing you can do to grow in your intake of God's Word?
- 2) What time of the day can you commit to spending time in God's Word?
- 3) What kind of plan will you make to structure your time in God's word? (*e.g., daily Bible reading plan; Bible in a year; book of the Bible; Psalm/Proverb a day*)
- 4) How will you seek to apply God's word each day?
- 5) How will you structure your prayer time?

*Course material adapted from <https://www.capitolhillbaptist.org/resources/core-seminars/>