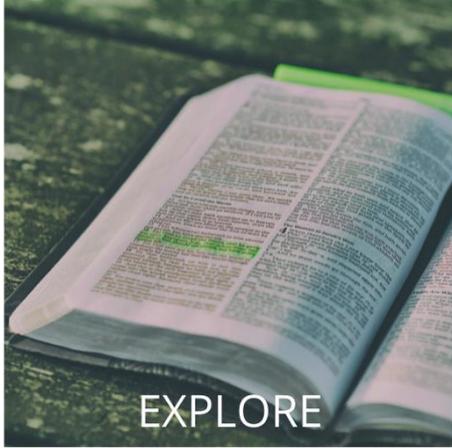




ENCOUNTER



EXPLORE



EXPERIENCE



Bentley Baptist Church

CONNECT WEEK

Sun 28/11 - Sun 5/12

A WEEK OF RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES TO HELP US REFRESH OUR ESSENTIAL CONNECTION TO GOD

What is Connect Week?

The Bible says that Jesus was always connected to His Father in heaven.

I want that too!

But it can be a struggle to maintain or even achieve that connection when there are so many distractions and activities and demands – even if they’re important ones!

So, we’re declaring a ‘Connect Week’ – asking the people of our church to set aside a significant chunk of time during this week to focus on their connection with God.

My suggestion is to find an hour somewhere in the week, put it in your diary, set an alarm and then turn off your phone so you won’t be disturbed. If you’re *really* having trouble finding time, just cut out a meal – Jesus was a big fan of fasting when we pray.

Resources:

Each day there will be a song and short thought on our Social Media and a scripture to guide you. There are also a few suggestions about ways to connect with God on the next page. Some people like a bit of structure too, so if it helps, we’ve provided daily themes at the end of this document that might be helpful.

Life Groups in Connect Week:

There won’t be any notes for your Life Group during Connect week, so you could either cancel and use that time for your personal ‘Connect hour’, or meet for a time of worship, prayer and listening to God.

CONNECT WEEK IDEAS

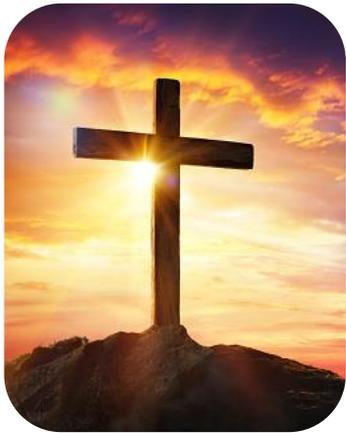
If you pick out a few of these, you'll have plenty to fill your 'Connect time'. You may even want to try and find time for more than one of these over the course of the week.

Get into Nature

Psalm 104



For some of us, God seems very real when we see some of the stuff He's made! Go for a walk and thank God for all of the amazing things you see.



The Cross

Luke 23:32-47

God has forgiven you for so much! Reflect on some of the ways you've messed up and thank Jesus that He has forgiven you for every single one of them!
Make sure you end by reading Luke 23:32-47

Worship

John 4:24

You could listen to songs, sing, pray, write your own psalm of praise, read from the Psalms or draw images of worship that come to mind.
Whatever way you worship, ask God to give you an experience of His presence.



Today I am grateful for

Attitude of Gratitude

1 Thess 5:16-18

Spend some time praying out loud or writing down things you are thankful to God for!
Thank Him for blessings from the past that you may never have thanked Him for.

Use the News

Matthew 24:6-14



God wants you to get angry about injustice! Read or watch the news and, instead of just getting angry or frustrated, turn the news reports into your prayers for those in need!

People Problems

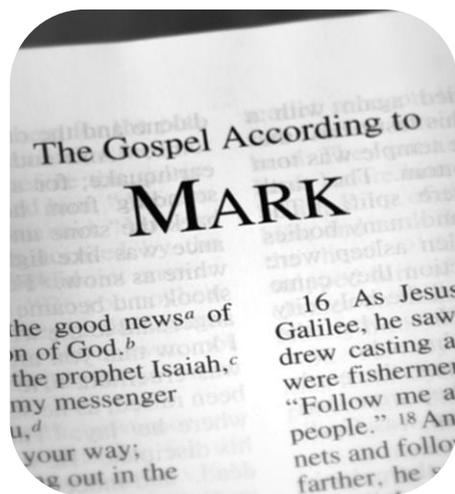
James 5:13-18



Make a list of 10 people to pray for. Work down the list and pray for them and, after each one, ask God if there's anything He wants to say to that person...

Read...

2 Timothy 3:14-17



There are all kinds of great books by Christian authors you could read, but why not spend some extended time reading the Bible?
When was the last time you read through the Bible for more than a few minutes at a time?
How about starting at the beginning of Mark's Gospel and reading through the life of Jesus?

A letter to God

Psalm 22

Write a letter or journal entry to God, telling Him simply what you're thinking and feeling today. You can ask questions, complain, give Him some constructive feedback about His handling of world events... whatever you like! When you've finished, ask Him what He wants to say back to you.





ENCOUNTER



EXPLORE



EXPERIENCE

Bentley Baptist Church
CONNECT WEEK

Sun 28/11 - Sun 5/12

**A WEEK OF RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES TO HELP
US REFRESH OUR ESSENTIAL CONNECTION TO GOD**

Suggested Prayer Themes:

Monday – Salvation. Romans 8:1-4

- Praise Jesus for what He did through His death and resurrection.
- Pray for others to encounter Jesus and choose to follow Him.
- Pray for our Church's Discipleship Journey Strategy to lead many people to Jesus.

Tuesday – Holiness. Romans 8:5-14

- Praise God for His Holiness – that He always does what is right and good.
- Ask God to forgive your mistakes and help you to live the life He wants for you.
- Pray for others to overcome habitual sins and live God's way.

Wednesday – Healing. Romans 8:15-25

- Praise God for His eternal plan to end suffering.
- Pray for those you know who are suffering with sickness, loss or hardship.
- Pray for issues of injustice in our world – for the lost, last and least.

Thursday – Purpose. Romans 8:26-30, Psalm 139:14

- Praise God for creating you with such talented and wonderful uniqueness.
- Pray that He will guide you and help you fulfill all He has for you.
- Pray that others will discover His purpose for their lives and live in its freedom.

Friday – Hope. Romans 8:31-39

- Praise God that nothing can separate us from His great love!
- Pray that He would break down the barriers that prevent others from knowing Him.