

To the Leader: Copy the reverse side of this sheet so that each person at the meeting has access to a copy for the devotional period. This side is your script for the meditation which is outlined for your participants. Read it at the appropriate time. This side is NOT to be copied.

10. Keeping in Touch

Without a doubt, today our main means of communicating is by telephone rather than letter-writing. Then to be sure we don't miss some communication, many of us have added the telephone answering machine? What about this aid to communications?

Our initial experience with these may "turn us off." When asked to leave a message, we may hang up rather than talk into a machine "after you hear the beep." However, folks with answering machines are really saying something like this: "It's not possible for me to sit here and wait for your call and I know that it's difficult for you and others to contact me, so instead of you dialing my number over and over again without an answer - and becoming frustrated by it all - just let me know that you want to get in touch with me by leaving a message - and I'll call you because, you see, I'm grateful that you thought of me and - like you - I want to make a connection."

All of which reminds me of another "connection" that is far more important than the telephone, namely, making a "connection" with the holy Lord God - talking to Him in humble, fervent prayer. With Him we never get the busy signal, and we never have to think about whether He is available. We know that He is. "Before they call", He says, "I will answer. And while they are yet speaking, I will hear." *Is. 65:24*. The Line is always open to Him. Just think of it, anytime - day or night - we can talk to Him about anything! "What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!"

Are we faithfully calling upon the Lord? He bids us, **"Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things which you have not known."**
Jeremiah 33:3.

Then, too, are we always available when the Lord wants to talk to us, or does He get a busy signal or no answer? As you know, the means by which the Lord talks to us is through His holy, precious, sacred, saving Word. Are we available to Him or are we too busy to listen to Him?

Regarding the blessed Savior, our Heavenly Father declares: "This is My beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased, LISTEN to Him." *Matt. 17:5*. Let us faithfully listen to Him with fellow-believers on Sundays, and let us faithfully listen to Him in our daily devotions.

Keeping in Touch

We Begin

Leader (L) and Group (G)

L: We know You are with us, Lord, for You said:

G: "Where two or three come together in My name, there am I with them."

We Search Scriptures - Matthew 7:7-11; Isaiah 65:24

Three readers: (1), (2), (3)

- 1: Ask and it will be given to you;
2: seek and you will find;
3: knock and the door will be opened to you.
1: For everyone who asks receives;
2: he who seeks finds;
3: and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.
1: Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?
2: Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?
3: If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!
ALL: Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.

We Meditate

Follow this outline as the meditation is presented

- Telephone answering machines: making a connection
- Prayer: our open line of connection to God
- God's Word: His connection to us.
- Are we listening to Him?

We Respond

G: Our Father Who art in heaven,

L: We pray to You with complete confidence just as children speak to their loving father.

L: Hallowed be Thy name.

G: We call on You in prayer, praise and thanksgiving.

L: Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

G: Help us not to neglect Your Word and the preaching of it, but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it.

L: Give us this day our daily bread.

G: And help us to receive our daily bread with thanks.

L: And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

G: For we sin every day and deserve nothing but punishment.

L: And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil.

G: Watch over us and keep us, so that the devil, the world and our sinful self may not deceive us. Save us from every evil to body and soul, and take us to heaven.

L: For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

G: Amen means, "Yes, it shall be so." Amen.

We Pray

O God, what a privilege prayer is, talking to You anytime, anywhere, about anything. What a comfort prayer is, knowing You are always listening to us. What an honor it is to have Your Word, for in it You tell us Your message of truth, life and love. Keep us connected to You by Word and prayer. Amen.

