

Seeking God's Guidance

This time of prayer focuses on *Psalms 25*. Pray *Psalms 25* two times: the first time for understanding, the second time from the heart. Follow the steps that are listed below.



Begin your prayer with the *Sign of the Cross*.

The Sign of the Cross affirms our belief in the three Persons of the Triune God and that we are saved by Jesus' death on the cross.

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

(Pray together aloud when praying with others)

Jesus, please give me the grace to quiet down inside so as to become aware of Your love for me.

Jesus, I want to spend this time with You. Help me to give You my full attention & to pray from my heart.

Psalm 25

To You, I lift up my soul, O my God. In You I trust. Your ways O Lord make known to me, teach me Your paths. Set me in the way of Your truth, and teach me, for You are the God who saves me and my hope is in You all day long. Good and upright is the Lord, He teaches the way to sinners; in all that is right He guides the humble, and instructs the poor in His way. All the paths of the Lord are love and truth for those who seek His help to keep His covenant and His decrees. For Your name's sake, O Lord, forgive my guilt, for it is great. Everyone who fears the Lord, [which means reverence, awe and respect for the power of God, Creator of the Universe] will be taught the course a person should choose; his soul will live in prosperity, his children will have the land for their own. The friendship of the Lord is with those who fear Him, and His covenant, for their instruction. (verses 1, 4-5, 8-14)

- **EXPRESS** silently your sorrow for any sins you committed, remembering that all sin offends God.
- **PRAY** *Psalm 25* a second time, silently from the heart, more slowly than the first time.
- **CHOOSE** a word or phrase from the Prayer that stood out for you. Silently think about it, speak with God about it, (and share it aloud with those with whom you are praying.)
- **THANK** Jesus in your own words for a blessing received. (Share this aloud.)
- **ASK** the Lord for any request that is in your heart right now. (Share this aloud.)

Close this time with a sincere praying of the Sign of the Cross

Dear Young Person,

You are encouraged to develop a personal prayer time in addition to family prayer time.

Important: The grace that you are praying for in the first part, that of asking Jesus for the grace of a deeper experience of His personal love for you, is essential to developing a true relationship with Him. As you experience this love in any way, write it down. Thank Jesus for this blessing in your life.

Why pray... Do you have a situation or a problem or an issue with which you need help and guidance? Would you like to know the best answer to this situation that would bring you and everyone else involved great joy as you discover it? As you pray *Psalm 25*, give the situation to the Holy Spirit and ask Him to show you the way to the best resolution or answer. Be listening and on the “lookout” for ways in which the Holy Spirit will answer you: through peace in your heart; circumstances around you; words from Scripture; words that trusted people say that seem to be from the Holy Spirit and “stand out” in some way in giving direction.

When to pray... With most things in life, when we schedule something, it takes place. When we don't, it usually does not happen. Choose a specific time to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen your desire to pray, leading to a stronger commitment: in the morning, after dinner, in the evening. As you speak with the Holy Spirit each day in prayer, you will come to recognize more and more how much He loves you and find **peace** and **calm** in the midst of life's difficulties.

Where to pray... Set up a sacred space, with a picture or statue of Jesus to help stay focused on Him. It is common to experience **distractions** during prayer. It is important not to follow the distraction, but as you notice it, simply turn back to the prayer at hand. If the same distraction keeps returning, it could be something you will want to talk about with the Lord Jesus.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

God has revealed to us that He is three Persons in one God. This is a mystery that we will understand more fully in Heaven. The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Blessed Trinity. He is the love between the Father and the Son. The Person of the Holy Spirit was sent by Jesus to live in our hearts and bring us closer to Him. It is the power of His grace dwelling in us that enables us to recognize God's voice and follow His guidance.

God communicates with us in many ways. By taking time to listen to the Holy Spirit – the Spirit of Jesus dwelling within you – you will learn to recognize His guidance as you develop a growing friendship with Him. There will be difficulties and trials, but as you pray and listen for His guidance as you go through these experiences, you will come to trust in the ultimate goodness of God.

When you pray for something, you can trust that God will answer every prayer in a way that is best for you. Remember, sometimes the answer will be “yes,” sometimes the answer will be “no,” and sometimes the answer will be “not now, but later” as God's timing is perfect.

The first letter of the five bulleted, bolded words on page 1 under the words of *Psalm 25* (**Express, Pray, Choose, Thank, Ask**) are EPCTA, which stands for “Every Prayer Counts To Almighty God.” This mnemonic device (EPCTA) helps for remembering the steps.

For further info on *Psalm 25* and on “How God Guides Us”, go here:

www.diolc.org/prayer/ 12th Grade