

It's Nothing Personal

Two Steps

So many people do not have a personal relationship with God simply because they falsely believe that prayer comes down to a “technique”. For all of the beautiful and complex prayers and ways to pray that there are out there, it really all comes down to two simple steps.

Step One: God loves you.

Step Two: You let Him.

Discussion Questions

1. Do you have a personal relationship with God? If yes, please say something about that (for example: when did that start? How did it start?). If you don't, why do you think that that is?
 2. Have you ever imagined that prayer is a “technique”? For example, have you bought into the idea that, if you do it the right way, you won't have distractions or dryness? Or even that God will hear you better? Where do you think that comes from?
 3. Which of God's characteristics, revealed by Jesus, is the most important to you *personally*? (This question is more about you than about some kind of “theological importance”.) Rather, “knowing this about God has changed my life”. Discuss.
 4. Is it hard to believe that God simply loves you? Is it easier to believe that you have to still do more to get His attention or to make Him love you more? Where do you think that comes from? If it is easy for you, why do you think that it is easy for you?
 5. We can have a tendency to “dismiss” God's love, “disqualify” ourselves from His love, or believe that we “deserve” God's love. If you fall into any of these categories, what do you think is the best way out? Discuss.
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God in Real Life

1. Read through this Sunday's Gospel story. With no pressure on yourself (merely surrendering to God's love), watch Jesus in the scene recounted by Saint Luke. If you see Him acting, pay attention to how He acts. If He speaks, pay attention to how He speaks. If you have a question, ask Him.
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To the Heart

“The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing”. ~Zephaniah 3:17