Space for God Two or Three



PREPARATION

• In the name of the FATHER, the SON, and the HOLY SPIRIT •

...if we don't feel guilty, we can come to God with bold confidence. And we will receive from him whatever we ask because we obey him and do the things that please him.

And this is his commandment: We must believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as he commanded us.

1 John 3:21-23

WORSHIP

"Listen, O heavens, and I will speak! Hear, O earth, the words that I say! Let my teaching fall on you like rain; let my speech settle like dew. Let my words fall like rain on tender grass, like gentle showers on young plants.

I will proclaim the name of the Lord; how glorious is our God!

Deuteronomy 32:1-3

CONFESSION

For our sins are piled up before God and testify against us.

Yes, we know what sinners we are.

Isaiah 59:12

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

James 5:16

MEDITATION Matthew 18.15-20*

If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won't accept the church's decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.

"I tell you the truth, whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.

"I also tell you this: If two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them."

IN SOLITUDE AND/OR COMMUNITY

Read Slowly, several times.

Reflect What does the text say?

Respond How does it relate to my life?

Rest I welcome God's healing and renewal.

ANCHORING PRAYER

You are here.

REVIEW OF THE HEART

How did I respond in a loving manner when I was hurt or offended?

What internal or external conflicts in my life lack resolution?

WISDOM

"You must not convict anyone of a crime on the testimony of only one witness. The facts of the case must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.

Deuteronomy 19:15

Don't you realize that someday we believers will judge the world? And since you are going to judge the world, can't you decide even these little things among yourselves? Don't you realize that we will judge angels? So you should surely be able to resolve ordinary disputes in this life. If you have legal disputes about such matters, why go to outside judges who are not respected by the church?

1 Corinthians 6:2-4

If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

John 20:23

TESTIMONY What is God saying to me?

INTERCESSION Prayers for the Church, for others, and for me.

BENEDICTION

And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

• Amen •

Colossians 3:15

SPACE FOR GOD DAILY

Be still and quiet before God.

Seek the Holy Spirit's filling and guidance.

Speak and act from a listening heart.

Actively serve in community with others.

PermaneSED (Abide) Kurt D. Peters. **Bold** portions to be read in unison. *Lectionary, Year A Scripture Quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007 by Tyndale House Foundation.