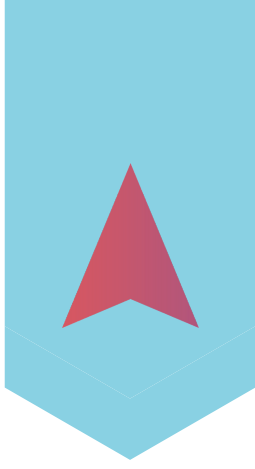


YOU GOTTA TRY THIS!

A person in a blue long-sleeved shirt, blue shorts, a blue cap, and a backpack is running from left to right, positioned as if running through the word 'TRY' in the main title.

S E R I E S G U I D E



You Gotta Try This
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If you've ever tried something you liked, often the first impulse is to tell someone else about it. This series guide is meant to help you kindle (or rekindle) an experimental and experiential relationship with God.

Whether you've been born and raised in the Seventh-day Adventist faith tradition or are taking your first steps in walking with Jesus, welcome. There's always room for one more. Throughout this guide we will explore together different ways we can experience God in new ways, beyond our wildest imagination.

Each section of this guide is meant to be used in conjunction with the video/audio series "You Gotta Try This" recorded at Elevate. You can access the series here. <https://youtu.be/0ujOom27tek>. Use this guide by yourself or to study with a group.

Stay safe and soapy.

Pastor Michael

Oh, and by the way. The pressure is off. Seriously. Just try it. An experimental and experiential relationship with God has tasted sweet to me, and I think it will to you too.

1 YOU GOTTA TRY THIS
An invitation to an experimental and experiential relationship with God.

2 TRY THE STORY
The Bible as a cohesive relational narrative.

3 TRY BEAUTY
Seeking God through sight, sound, smell, taste and touch.

4 TRY COMMUNITY
Our indelible need for each other.

5 TRY SABBATH
Resting in God's incredible work of grace.

6 TRY ABUNDANCE
Putting an end to the ruthless pursuit of more.

7 TRY GOD'S GRACE
Finding forgiveness and strength for a new way to live.

1

YOU GOTTA TRY THIS

An invitation to an experimental and experiential relationship with God.

LISTEN/WATCH

<https://youtu.be/Nlj1Jky16p8>

READ Psalm 34:8

What does David's invitation to "taste and see" God's goodness mean?

READ John 1:25-51

What were the disciples' natural responses to experiencing Jesus?

Generally, we will try something when...

We perceive it has value

We perceive the person inviting has influence

We perceive we have a need

REFLECT

What holds me back from experiencing a relationship with God?

What steps will I take to try a relationship with God?

TRY IT

Start by turning to prayer and the Bible
before opening your phone in the morning.

Listen to the stories of how other Jesus followers
have experienced a relationship with God.

Take time today to notice God's fingerprints around you
(flower, sunset, answered prayer, etc).

2 TRY THE STORY

The Bible as a cohesive relational narrative.

LISTEN/WATCH
<https://youtu.be/a5UObuyXQn0>

READ Matthew 13:34

Why did Jesus use stories to communicate His teachings?

READ Exodus 20

How does the cohesive narrative of Scripture help interpret this passage?

Why are stories so powerful?

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Story speaks to heart and mind. | 4. Story tells us what we already know |
| 2. Story invokes participation. | is true in our conscience. |
| 3. Story validates the power of the individual. | 5. Easily remembered and shared. |

REFLECT

How does my story interact with the biblical story?

In what ways does my perspective change when I see the Bible as a relational narrative of a God who longs for an experimental and experimental relationship with us?

TRY IT

Read the story of a biblical character and reflect on how God interacted on a personal level with that person.

(ex: Abraham: Genesis 12-25; Joseph, Genesis 39-46; The Gospel according to John)

Read a psalm of David and find the corresponding story surrounding the psalm.

(ex: Psalm 34 and 1 Sam 21; Psalm 5 and 2 Sam 11-12)

Begin a chronological Bible reading plan.

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-reading-plan/chronological.html>

3

TRY BEAUTY

Seeking God through sight, sound, smell, taste and touch.

LISTEN/WATCH

<https://youtu.be/z71K6bCo6kg>

READ Psalm 27:4

What does the psalmist mean by "beholding the beauty of the Lord?"

READ Exodus 25-40

List a few ways the Sanctuary was a full sensory experience.

READ Matthew 26:6-13

What was the significance of Mary's gift?

REFLECT

When was the last time I stopped to smell the roses?

In what ways does understanding the theology of beauty help me see, hear, smell, taste and feel God better?

TRY IT

Set aside a space for personal time with God whether it be your favorite chair, a reading nook, your back porch or closet. What items can you include in order to facilitate a sensory experience with God? (sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch).

Buy or pick flowers to have inside your home. Set in a prominent place to be reminded of God through beauty.

Inventory your media consumption. Take a break from anything that is not honorable, pure, lovely or excellent.

4 TRY COMMUNITY

Our indelible need for each other.

LISTEN/WATCH
<https://youtu.be/Fd7-zRSXBqE>

READ Hebrews 10:19-25
Why do we need each other?

READ John 15 and Isaiah 5
What lessons can we learn from the imagery of grapes and vineyards to describe God's people?

REFLECT

Is it possible to be in a community yet still be disconnected?

What does it mean for my experience with God to be personal but never private?

TRY IT

Look for ways you are already part of distinct communities (church group, gym, coffee spot, sport groups, activity groups etc.).

Make a commitment to intentionally foster community within groups you are already a part of.

Establish a weekly rhythm of gathering with friends or family for Bible study and worship.

5 TRY SABBATH

Resting in God's incredible work of grace.

LISTEN/WATCH
<https://youtu.be/0ujOom27tek>

READ Matthew 11:28-30

What is the significance of Jesus using an "easy yoke" to describe rest?

READ Isaiah 58

How does Isaiah describe the observance of Sabbath?

READ Mark 2:27

What does it mean for Jesus to say, "Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath"?

REFLECT

How does seventh-day sabbath keeping change our outlook on the other six days of the week?

In what ways is Sabbath a revolution and departure from modern culture?

TRY IT

Set aside a 24 hour period each week to sabbath (we recommend sundown Friday night to sundown Saturday night). Let your phone, work, homework, and other busy life stuff rest. Enjoy fellowship, family and food.

Allow rhythms of rest to influence your everyday life. Take breaks. Go for walks. Establish set times to check social media and email.

Walk slower. Come to a full stop at stop signs. Pick the long lane at the grocery check out. Don't text and drive. Do whatever it takes to infuse sabbath into everyday life.

6 TRY ABUNDANCE

Putting an end to the ruthless pursuit of more.

LISTEN/WATCH
https://youtu.be/aeHkCQ_g6BA

READ 2 Corinthians 9:6-10

What is the result of an abundance mentality?

READ John 6:1-14

What lessons was Jesus trying to teach His disciples about abundance?

READ Numbers 13

How would abundance mentality have changed the ten spies responses?

REFLECT

How can I practice abundant living?

What does the abundant life of John 10:10 mean for my life?

TRY IT

Cast your worries on God. Ask for peace. Give control back to God.
Recognize God is in control.

Look for one way this week to give with radical abundance.

Ponder what it means for your possessions to not be your own. How would it change your habits to make that recognition?

7 TRY GOD'S GRACE

Finding forgiveness and strength for a new way to live.

LISTEN/WATCH
<https://youtu.be/aKzV6TRmwvE>

READ Hebrews 4:14-16

In what way does the author of Hebrews say we should approach the throne of grace?

READ Genesis 3

How does God act from grace towards Adam and Eve?

REFLECT

What is the difference between expectation and surprise?

How does living from the expectation of grace lead me to surprise others with grace?

TRY IT

Spend some time this week thinking about how God's grace has touched your life.

Look for one way this week to extend radical grace towards someone else.

Be kind to yourself. You may have confidence to approach God's throne of grace.

All I gotta say is, you gotta try an experimental and experiential relationship with God. It's not always gonna be easy (are any relationships?).

Yet, you'll never regret it.

Whether you've completed the study in a week, a month or a year, my prayer is that you encounter the God who loves you beyond your wildest imagination and experience Him in new and real ways.

-Michael



YOU GOTTA TRY THIS SERIES GUIDE