

# 50

## CREATIVE WAYS TO LINGER WITH JESUS

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.” - John 15:4

Reading God’s Word is the best way to linger with Jesus, but sometimes that is hard to do. Here are 50 creative ways to linger with Jesus. These are not meant to replace reading God’s Word but rather counteract the excuses we give ourselves that we don’t have time. These are not to add pressure or put more on your to-do list. In fact, you’re probably already doing some of them. These are here to encourage you and remind you of the many ways we can keep God at the center of our day, even if it’s a busy one.

1. Choose a name of God for the week and write down ways you see that name in action. (If you have a place in your home that you can write it for the whole family to see, even better. They can add to the list too!)
2. Listen and sing worship songs throughout the day.
3. Have your kids teach you one of the songs they learned at church (motions too!).
4. Google “scripture behind [song title]” and then read or listen to that scripture.
5. Write down or record a voice memo stating what a song means to you.
6. Thank God for the song and praise God for who He is in the song.
7. Read faith based books to your kids.
8. Watch faith based shows with your kids. (One of our favorites is BOZ).
9. Talk with your family on the car ride home from church about what you all learned.
10. Connect with other believers through a small group. (Lingering with Jesus includes fellowship with other believers, especially if you’re building one another up and spurring one another closer to Christ)
11. Talk with your friends about what God is doing in your life.
12. Ask your friend what God is teaching them.
13. Tell your friend about what God is teaching you.
14. Listen to sermons from other pastors (ensuring they are biblical first).
15. Listen to the Bible Recap podcast.
16. Listen to Christian Living podcasts (ones that are quoting Scripture and putting Scripture into action).
17. Listen to audiobooks or radio programs. You're never too old for an Adventures in Odyssey adventure.
18. Read biographies of those who came before us.
19. Participate in a Bible study group.
20. Read daily devotionals.
21. Read the scriptures that are listed in the daily devotional (it’s so easy to skip over these).
22. Praise God for who He is.
23. Thank God for what He has done.
24. Talk to God about what you’re going through, what you’re feeling.
25. Write down how God has blessed you and then thank Him for it. Be specific, not generic.

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26. Memorize God's Word through motions or song.
27. Write out a verse or passage.
28. Keep God's Word in front of you. A lock screen on your phone or a verse written on a card taped to your kitchen window or computer screen or car dashboard, etc. The key is to read it every time you see it and take a moment to reflect on it, allowing the Holy Spirit to work.
29. Read a passage with your kids.
30. Act out a passage with your kids. (Having the kids march around like the Israelites marched around Jericho is so fun, especially for my boys who loved smashing the wall down and screaming as loud as they could!)
31. Write down questions you have about God.
32. Go to coffee with a friend (or play date at the park) and ask that friend one of your questions about God.
33. Take a walk/hike. See what God has created and talk to God about it.
34. Talk with your kids about our magnificent creator God as you point out beautiful and maybe not so beautiful things on your walk.
35. Learn about a different culture and what they believe. Pray for this new-to-you people group.
36. Take the Christmas cards you receive and make a flip book (hole punch one corner and add to a ring)...then pray through the book (one each night or one each week, etc)
37. Choose a verse for the week and read it multiple times a day.
38. Take that same verse and read the passage around it.
39. Take that same verse and pray it back to God (praising Him or asking Him for wisdom, discernment, help, etc)
40. Tell someone else about the verse you chose and what you've learned (either about yourself or God).
41. Look and see if other verses are mentioned in the notes in your Bible...if there are, read those verses.
42. Send someone a card sharing Scripture that has encouraged you.
43. If you see a verse on social media that inspires you, take a screenshot and look back at it a few more times.
44. Take that same verse and read it in your Bible and the verses around it.
45. Go do something that God has gifted you with (maybe painting or running or even cleaning). Thank Him for the gift. And then keep your mind focused on Him while you do it.
46. When someone comes to mind, take a moment and ask God to fill them with the knowledge of His will through the wisdom and understanding that the Holy Spirit gives. (Colossians 1:9)
47. Ask God to search your heart—everyday. And then respond with repentance as the Holy Spirit convicts.
48. Do a word study. Choose a favorite verse and learn what the main words are in Hebrew and then find other passages in the Bible that use the same word.
49. Hold a family "out-do one another in showing honor" challenge (Romans 12:10). This emphasizes the importance of not just reading God's word but doing it.
50. Serve, whether at church or volunteering at a non-profit or helping a homeless person or an elderly woman you know, give your time to someone else.