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| Read     |
| Think    |
| Complete |
| Discuss  |

## A Prayer for those Tyrannised by the Urgent

*Lord, there's something in my nature  
that takes me, so easily,  
like moth to light,  
to things that don't matter.  
I circle and flutter,  
batter wings,  
fly frantic for nothing.*

*I fill my time with trivia.  
Crowd out the questions  
of who I really am,  
and where I'm heading.  
In a panic progress  
I persuade myself  
– at least I try to –  
that here and now is my concern.  
Then I discover  
that the yellow brick road  
of my own feelings  
leads,  
not to fulfilment,  
but circles back to starting point.  
And I'm left  
holding an A to Z of Nowhere.*

*Lord, calm me down.  
Inject a moment's peace  
into the bloodstream of my life.  
And in the peace  
help me to see the world whole.  
Or, if that's too much to ask,  
at least to see myself  
for what I am.*

*Give me the courage  
to dive below the surface,  
to push aside the jetsam of my living,  
to catch a vision of what really matters,  
not in a kaleidoscope of jumbled  
images,  
changing with every twist of the tube,  
but clear and fresh  
in the light of your truth.  
Help me to grasp priorities,  
to understand a little  
of your purpose for the world,  
and my place in it.*

*Help me to differentiate  
the urgent from the important.  
To hear, behind the clamorous voice of  
now,  
your gentle voice that offers me,  
so quietly,  
the joy of knowing why I'm here,  
and who stands close.*

Eddie Askew



### ON YOUR OWN

*Personal reflection from this session and preparation for the next*

- Think about something important in your life which has been squeezed out by the urgent. Take time this week to create space for it.
- Consider how God has recently communicated to you. Note down one or two examples.



Adapted from The 2:7 Series  
A Ministry of The Navigators

# Opening Up To God

## Session 1: Choosing to know God

- Making it on your own?
- Finding the time
- Personal reflection

## CAN I MAKE IT ON MY OWN?

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Jesus Christ calls each person to discipleship individually. He wants to get to know you better and for you to get to know him better. "Follow me" is a person-to-person call – we enjoy the adventure, endure the adversity and enter into the final rewards - on the basis of a personal, distinctive allegiance to Jesus as Lord.

Our greatest resource as Christians is God himself. Ultimately our hope is not in ourselves or in others, but in him. It is through his grace that we are able to "make it". With him, and with one another, we **can** make it – we **can** become all that God wants us to be.

Over the next four sessions we will consider some of the means by which we can get to know God better, amid the busyness of life. We have set out the sessions like this:

1. *Choosing to know God* - prioritising our time
2. *How God communicates to us* - we focus on the bible
3. *How we communicate to God* - prayer as our response to God
4. *Communicating every day* - some practical ideas to get to grips with

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It's not easy to talk openly about getting to know God better. We sometimes refer to our "personal" relationship with the Lord or knowing him "intimately" because it's just that: personal and intimate. On the other hand, it's difficult to conceive of knowing someone really well and never to talk about them. In fact, the more a person means to us, the more impossible it is to never talk about them!

As you share together, in your group, about your relationship with God:

What are you expecting to be helpful?

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What are you expecting to be difficult?

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Take a couple of moments to talk about your expectations in pairs.

## FINDING THE TIME?

Do you ever wonder how you will fit spending time with God into your busy schedule... how can you possibly cut down on all the essential tasks you have to complete? If this sounds familiar then you will certainly identify with the article enclosed entitled 'Tyranny of the Urgent'.

### A Discussion of Tyranny of the Urgent

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How did you feel when you read this article?

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How does the writer define "urgent" and "important"?

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In what ways has the latest information technology potentially brought us even more "tyranny"?

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Charles Hummel gives several practical suggestions as to how to escape from the tyranny of the urgent (such as living by priorities, prayerful waiting on God, evaluating, and so on). In your own circumstances, which of them do you find most useful?

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How could you put one of them into practice?

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During your group discussion, jot down helpful suggestions shared by others.

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