



Rock Church

Pastor Miles McPherson

Pursuing Loving Relationships | Matthew 22:37

July 4, 2021

Monthly Discipleship Focus for July:

Humbly embraces a Kingdom mindset

On Sunday, Pastor Miles continued his sermon series which is a compilation of his personal reflections about Covid-19. We are learning how a rose is the potential of a loving relationship with every person you meet, and that smelling the rose is pursuing that potential relationship.

1. **Slowly draw near to ACKNOWLEDGE and APPRECIATE the rose.** Read 1st Samuel 3:8-10, 1 John 4:19, and James 4:8. God is love. His love casts out fear, adopts, forgives, encourages, and empowers you. Understand how to love God because if you don't love Him the way you're supposed to, you're not going to be able to love anyone else. What are some ways God has shown His love for you?
2. **Patiently STUDY the rose.** Read 1 Samuel 3:15 and Proverbs 13:24. Understand how a rose functions. If you're going to be who God called you to be, there will be some difficult times. You need to learn how to patiently wait on God for direction, instead of doing what you want. Share one significant thing that has happened in your life that you now realize was God's protection.
3. **Meticulously and faithfully CARE for the rose.** Read 1 Samuel 3:19-4:1. Tend to and nurture the rose. God is constantly loving you, caring for you, forgiving you, cleansing you, and preparing you. Briefly share how you can create a better environment to hear from God.

When giving to God, remember the law of rightful reward because He always gives us more than we deserve:

- Rewards are granted by God, not gained by man.
- Instead of comparing your rewards to others, trust God.
- Instead of making contracts with God, trust Him.

This Month's Memory Verse:

"But when the multitudes knew *it*, they followed Him; and He received them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who had need of healing." ~Luke 9:11 NKJV

This Week's Bible Reading & Bible Project Video:

Psalms 78-83: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/psalms/>

Isaiah 43-66: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/isaiah-40-66/>

Next Step:

Text INFO to 52525 for Rock updates and events.

