



### **Part 1: You've Got Style**

In this discussion we're exploring the nine spiritual styles discussed in Gary Thomas' book, *Sacred Pathways*. It's important that we understand our own spiritual style because knowing how God has wired us can help us more effectively connect with God. We hope that through this conversation you get a clearer picture of how God has wired you and how that allows you to draw near to Him.

**Bottom Line:** Your style is an invitation to connect with God.

### **Discussion Questions**

- Do you find it easy or challenging to connect with God?
- Whose responsibility have you thought it is to grow your faith? Has that changed over the years?
- Has there ever been a time in your life when you were able to connect with God? Describe that experience/time.
- Take the spiritual pathways assessment at [www.beyondchurch.com.au/style](http://www.beyondchurch.com.au/style) to determine what your style is.
- Does the test line up with what you thought about yourself? If not, how can you use this new information to connect with God?
- What's one thing you can do this week to connect with God by leveraging your style?

Some ideas of how to connect based on your style are below:

#### **Naturalists - loving God outdoors**

Naturalists love to worship God in the midst of his creation and should read Romans 1:20! A great way for a naturalist to worship is by going on a walk to spend time with God.

#### **Sensates - loving God with the senses**

Sensates worship through sights, sounds, smells, and touch. A great way for sensates to worship is by engaging your senses while spending time with God.

#### **Traditionalists - loving God through ritual**

#### **Activist - loving God through fighting for Godly principles**

Activists feel closest to God when they are overcoming evils in our society, and they are discontent with a faith that doesn't lead to action. A great way for activists to worship is volunteering at a non-profit, or serving on a team at Beyond.

#### **Caregivers - loving God through serving others**

Caregivers feel closest to God when they

**and symbol**

Traditionalists love the fact that our faith is historical and tied to tradition. A great way for traditionalists to worship is by reading the Bible chronologically!

**Ascetics - loving God through solitude and simplicity**

Ascetics feel closest to God when they are away from the noise and distraction. A great way for ascetics to worship is turning off their phone and spending time with God in a quiet space!

**Intellectuals - loving God through the mind and understanding**

Intellectuals are drawn towards learning more about God. A great way for intellectuals to grow in their faith is to listen to religious podcasts that challenge them.

actually help an individual. A great way for Caregivers to worship would be through joining a volunteer team.

**Enthusiasts - loving God through mystery and celebration**

Enthusiasts are inspired by joyful celebration and feel close to God when their hearts are moved. A great way for enthusiasts to connect with God would be listening to a worship music playlist.

**Contemplatives - loving God through adoration**

Contemplatives look to enjoy God through his presence. A great way for contemplatives to build their relationship with God is through carving out a specific time to be intentional in quiet time and prayer.

**Moving Forward**

We were all created individually by God, and we therefore connect with God in different ways. By becoming more in touch with how God created us to worship, we can make the most of our relationship with the God who made us. God is massive and all powerful and all knowing, but he's also intimate and personal. Take ownership of how you grow in your relationship with God! As you come close to Him, He will come close to you!