

Meeting with God, 10am

[Our “quiet time” with God – who’s setting the agenda? And watch out! When you do spend time with God you attract the attention of you-know-who...]

[Marie trying to decide what to wear, Simon walks in]

- Marie:** I’ve got a meeting with God tomorrow at 10am – what do you think I should wear? This? *[holding up suit]* Too conservative? This is my current favourite *[showing him cardigan and trousers]* Casual, but not too scruffy.
- Simon:** Does it matter?
- Marie:** Why I am even asking you? Men never have to think about what to wear. If it’s smart you wear a shirt and tie, if it’s casual, jeans and t-shirt. That’s it, decision made! My wardrobe’s this big *[indicating size]* and I still don’t have a “going to see God” outfit. I’ll have to go emergency clothes shopping. You wouldn’t understand.
- Simon:** I share a house with two women, believe me, I understand about women’s wardrobes and the importance of clothes shopping. What I meant to say was I don’t think God’s going to be all that concerned about what you’re wearing, as long as it’s decent.
- Marie:** Not going to be concerned? Appearance accounts for over 50% of first impressions. I don’t want God to think I haven’t made an effort. Perhaps I should wear a dress? I don’t know whether to treat this meeting as an interview or a social function with the underlying purpose of networking. I suppose it depends who else is there.
- Simon:** What are you seeing him about?
- Marie:** Well, he didn’t list specifics, so I’ve taken the initiative and written an agenda. *[holds up notepad with lots of lines on]* I’ll email it to him later when I’ve finalised the details.
- Simon:** Um, did you ask to see God, or did God ask to see you? If God asked to see you, don’t you think he’s probably already got an agenda in mind?
- Marie:** You’ve got a point, but if his letters are anything to go by if I leave it to him we’ll spend the whole time talking about my so-called “pride problem” and then he’ll try to tell me how much he loves me, and I feel really awkward about that sort of thing. No, I intend to head him off by asking what he is going to do about the park and ride scheme, the low funds of the jubilee committee (so much to organise, so little time!) and my new car. Nobody takes anybody with an X reg seriously.
- Simon:** Are you going to call him just plain “God”?
- Marie:** I really don’t know the protocol for a face to face meeting. Let’s think outside the box! I’ll be me, and you can be God.
- Simon:** OK. Let’s imagine someone shows you into his office and he stands up behind his desk to greet you *[Simon sits behind desk, rises, they both reach out to shake hands]*
- Marie:** And I say “God! We meet at last!” Oh no, he might think I’m being rude about his time management. Um... “Hello, Your Right Honourable Worshipness...” *[reach out to shake hands again]*
- Simon:** He’s not the mayor...
- Marie:** OK then, how about plain “Hi God!”

Simon: How about respectful yet loving “Dear Father..”

Marie: And then what?

Simon: I know it will be hard for you, but you should probably do more listening than talking. Let God handle the situation and see where he takes you.

Marie: I like to know where I’m going...

Simon: As long as you’re going with God you’ll be fine

Marie: I suppose it could be quite exciting, off on an awfully big adventure with God...

Simon: Yes, being with God is exciting. So just relax, be yourself, but not too much, and give him time to talk.

Marie: OK, respectful but loving “Dear Father” [*takes Simon’s hand in both hers*], we sit down, pause, wait for him to start speaking, God says his thing – how do I wrap it up? I’ve got another appointment across town two hours after this one starts. You don’t think that God is going to go on longer than two hours do you? I hope there’s refreshments. There’s nothing worse than trying to focus on what someone’s saying when all you’re really thinking is “I’m desperate for a double-decaff latte”....

Simon: Who’s the next appointment with? Is it something worth rushing God for?

Marie: Oh, my client portfolio is going very high profile. My 12 o’clock is the Prince of.. um, something.....the Prince of...

Simon: Not the Prince of Wales?

Marie: No...the Prince of...

Simon: Denmark?

Marie: No, the Prince of ...Darkness, that’s it! I’ve never been to Darkness but it must be an important place to have a prince. His secretary said he likes to have a follow-up meeting with everyone after they’ve seen God, it’s quite the in-thing

Simon: Er, you might want to think about cancelling that appointment...