

Soul Project – Natural Revelation - An Outside Activity (20 points)

You may do this soul project at any time while you are taking this course. You will need to find a **natural (not man-modified) place outside** that is quiet, free from distractions, and away from other people. **Go to a place where you cannot see any of man’s makings anywhere around you** (houses, roads, cars, etc.) (Luke 6:12 NIV “One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.”) I suggest that you look on a local map for a nearby national park, national wildlife refuge, national shoreline, state park, county park, city park, or dedicated nature preserve. Of course, be sure that the location that you select is safe. (If you do not visit such a place or if you do not tell me the location that you visited, then your grade will be a maximum of 50%.)

The **purpose** of this soul project is for you to allow the Holy Spirit to help you deepen your appreciation of God’s creation. You will do this in light of Scripture and being in a natural area.

1. **Preliminary:** Before you start this Soul Project, read the material, “An Introduction to Soul Projects/ What is a Soul Project?” that I have posted.
2. Start your soul project after you have completed all the preliminary material. Set aside a minimum of one hour for this activity. Take your Bible and a notebook or computer with you. Copy the following header onto the top right corner of your page and record your starting time:

Name:
Soul Project Title:
Date(s) Worked:
Time Started: **Ended:**
Total Time Spent:

Make a journal of your thoughts as you progress through the steps below.

(Record the titles to these steps in your journal so that I can find your answers.) Please do not write what you think I want to hear. Record your thoughts as you work through this soul project. I alone will read this. Share only what you feel comfortable sharing. Seventy five percent of your grade will come from the quality of your journal.

3. **Your Interaction with the Creation:** How much have you interacted with God’s creation in the past? Do you like being outside? Why or why not? Describe the location where you are doing this soul project.
4. **Invocation:** Quiet your soul before the Lord. (Psalm 46:10a NIV “Be still, and know that I am God.”) Invite the Holy Spirit to illuminate His word to you, to prompt you to remember what He wants you to remember, and to convict you of sin.
5. **Lectio (reading):** Scripture teaches us that God reveals Himself to us in two ways: through His Word, and through His creation. The latter is called “natural” or “general” revelation. Read Ps 19:1-6; Psalm 104; and Romans 1:18-20. Read the passages slowly and thoughtfully. Consider reading them repeatedly or reading them aloud.
6. **Meditatio (meditation):** Meditate on the passages. Perhaps you have read or heard these passages many times. If so, then try to look at them as if you were doing so for the first

time. What is God trying to teach you from His word about being outside in His creation?

7. **Contemplatio (contemplation):** How do these passages relate to *your life*? What is the Holy Spirit teaching you about this area of your life? Does He want to change your thinking and to renew your mind (Romans 12:2?) How? Does He want you to change your attitudes? How? Does He want you to changes your actions? How? Is there anything else that He wants you to do?
8. **Oratio (prayer):** Pray the passage back to God. Where appropriate, offer up praise, thanksgiving, confession, and/or supplication.