

Connecting Group Study Guide

Knowing, Growing, Going

Week of July 10-16, 2016

Follow-up

1. Start by checking in with each other about your previous week.
2. How did your journaling experience go last week? Were you obedient in what you thought the Lord was leading you to?

This week Shandra shared a powerful message with us on how we essentially chase after the illusion of perfection. As a result we often end up hiding who we truly are in an attempt to look like we have it all together. In reality, our true worship comes out of a place of deep need and brokenness, not out of having everything in order within our lives. I think one of the ways this can appear in our lives is through busyness. Busyness is actually something that can work against a growing and maturing faith. As Richard Foster shares in *Celebration of Discipline*, “In contemporary society our Adversary majors in three things: noise, hurry, and crowds. If he can keep us engaged in ‘muchness’ and ‘manyness,’ he will rest satisfied.”

Begin by reading together Luke 10:38-41.

Knowing God (Encounter)

In this passage Jesus and his disciples, while traveling, are invited into the home of Martha and Mary. Martha seems to be the initiator of this encounter (v. 38).

1. From your own perspective, what is involved in welcoming another person or persons into your home?
2. Read vv. 39-40. In your own words describe what is taking place in this scene. How do you think you would respond if you were in Martha’s position?

Growing in Christ-likeness (Sanctification)

1. Read vv. 41-42. Jesus says that Martha is “worried and upset about many things.” As a group list as many possible worries that Martha may be experiencing in this moment.
2. Do you think there may be any underlying issues at work in this situation with Martha? If so, what might they be?
3. Jesus tells Martha that while she is worried about many things, “indeed only one thing” is needed. What is that “one thing”?

Going to Our Neighbors and the World (Obedience)

In the church we often speak of the importance of living out our faith. Most often the emphasis seems clearly placed on action. As followers of Jesus it is important for us to learn that we cannot “do” until we first learn to “be.” Our missional living will only come from learning to sit at the feet of Jesus. Again, Richard Foster helps us here when he says, “Superficiality is the curse of our age. The doctrine of instant satisfaction is a primary spiritual problem. The desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people, or gifted people, *but for deep people*” (italics added).

1. In order for you to grow deeper into Christ, is there anything that is fighting for your time, your heart, or your focus?

2. What can to cut out in order to open up more time to allow for you to sit at the feet of Jesus?

Action Steps

This week prayerfully consider the following questions

- (1) Perform a self-audit of your life this week. Examine where you spend your time, what you spend your time doing, etc.
- (2) One area that eats up much of our time is social media. Do you need to take a social media fast to open up time to sit with Jesus?
- (3) What would happen if you just didn't do a certain thing this week? Would life be drastically altered in any way? Do you need to re-examine your thought patterns in this area to help open up more time with Jesus?

Close in prayer together.