

THE **crossing** **small groups**

Wanting Connection with God: Luke 10:38-11:13

Sermon Discussion Member Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To understand that an intimate relationship with Jesus is our greatest need and assess how we are dealing with things that distract us from deepening this relationship.

Icebreaker: Share with your group ways you are easily distracted and how you respond to those distractions. Do they prevent you from doing something more important?

Discussion

Read:

Luke 10:38-42

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.

⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

⁴¹"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken from her."

1. How did Mary and Martha each respond to Jesus? How do you think you would have acted if Jesus was visiting your home?
2. What was Martha going to miss if she continued down the path of distraction? How did Jesus intervene?
3. It is interesting that instead of solving her problem, Jesus tells Martha there is only one thing that she needs. How would you explain that need in your own words?

How do you see yourself missing out on having this need met today?

THE **crossing** **small groups**

Transition

While we most likely aren't going to have Jesus literally walk through our door so we can sit at his feet like Mary did, Dave said we can have the *one thing* Jesus was talking about. We can have an intimate relationship with him. Jesus teaches his disciples how to develop this intimacy with God in the Lord's prayer.

Read:

Luke 11:1-4

¹One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

²He said to them, When you pray, say:

"Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come.

³Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation."

4. What do we learn from Jesus about how to have an intimate and relational conversation with our heavenly Father?

Remembering the bigger story of our lives transforms the way we see the many things that could make us anxious and upset. When we pray for God's kingdom to come, we are asking God to help us see our lives in light of the greater story of his ultimate renewal and restoration.

5. How do you want to see God's kingdom come to your life right now? What would you say to God?

Transition

At the end, Dave mentioned one more prayer request, and it might be one that doesn't always top our prayer list. Jesus taught that we should ask God to fill us with the Holy Spirit. When Jesus taught this prayer 2,000 years ago, he knew we would need the Holy Spirit's power to help us connect with God today.

THE **crossing** **small groups**

Read:

1 Corinthians 6:19

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?"

Romans 5:5

And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

6. When have you experienced the Holy Spirit's power in your relationship with God and others?

Are you in need of this connecting power to heal or renew a relationship right now?

Wrap-Up

Remember that Jesus said Mary, who sat at his feet, had chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.

7. How do you think your life would change if you spent less time distracted and more time at Jesus' feet?

Who would notice the change? Would it be worth it to you?

Sharing and Prayer:

After everyone in the group has a chance to address and answer the last question, end your time together praying for the things that each person shared. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill each of you and help you deepen your intimacy with God.