






COMMUNITY GUIDE

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WEEKLY APPLICATION

TAKEAWAY: Jesus asks us "What do you want?" which is essentially asking what we love and pay attention to.

HEAD CHANGE: Our attention is a precious, finite resource that determines our priorities.

HEART CHANGE: We are often distracted by hurry, secularism, and our phones, which can prevent us from experiencing the full life God has for us.

LIFE CHANGE: Boredom can be beneficial, activating self-reflection, empathy, and creativity.

OVERVIEW

In a world filled with distractions, we're called to cultivate a countercultural attention to what truly matters. The story of Mary and Martha in Luke 10 reminds us that Jesus values our presence and attention over our busyness. We often find ourselves, like Martha, distracted by many things, but Jesus gently redirects us to the 'one thing' that's truly necessary. This isn't about withdrawing from the world, but about seeing God in the ordinary moments of our lives. By practicing intentional presence - whether it's taking a breath before entering a room or acknowledging God's presence each morning - we can resist the pull of hurry and secularism. As we tune our attention to God, we may discover that the 'mess' in our lives is actually a blessing, a sign of the vibrant life He's given us. Let's challenge ourselves to go deeper, beyond the shallows of cultural chatter and into the depths where God's Spirit whispers to us.

"Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?"

John 1:38

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does the idea that "we are what we want" resonate with you? In what ways do your desires shape your life?
2. The sermon mentions being "attentive to God in the everyday, ordinary moments." What might this look like in your daily life?
3. How has technology, particularly smartphones, impacted your ability to focus and be present? Share both positive and negative effects.
4. Discuss the concept of "mapping our longing for God onto other things." Where do you see this happening in your life or in society?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Lord, help us to be more attentive to Your presence in our daily lives. Guide us as we seek to resist the distractions of our world and tune our hearts to You. May we experience the depth and richness of life You intend for us as we learn to focus on what truly matters. Amen

IN THIS TOGETHER!