

LENS OF CHRIST

PURSUE RELATIONALLY

To kick things off, have each person in your group answer the following question: If you could direct a movie, what genre would it be? Mystery? Thriller? Romance?

LIVE AUTHENTICALLY

Welcome to another week of At Home Faith. As we continue to go through this pandemic and the challenges it brings, take a few minutes to check in with your group. Our circumstances may not be ideal, but that doesn't mean we stop living life in community. So, before we go any further, take some time to talk with your Group by having everyone answer these questions:

What was the best part of your week? Why?

What was the most challenging part of your week? Why?

COUNSEL BIBLICALLY

Read John 6:35-40

What did Jesus come to earth to do?

What is God the Father's will?

When you think back to the historical facts around the life and times of Jesus, you will quickly find out that there was a lot of confusion as to who Jesus was and why He came to earth. The Jewish people and Jewish leadership thought the coming Messiah would overthrow Rome and free them from oppression. Rome thought that Jesus was a revolutionary just stirring up trouble, and the Pharisees saw Jesus as someone who undermined their authority amongst the Jewish people.

Everyone expected Jesus to meet their needs or improve their situations. They thought he was going to come and fix the issues of the world, fix the tension humans were facing in all areas of life. From the sick needing healing, to civilians needing a strong leader in government, everyone wanted Jesus to meet their needs. Though Jesus often met people's physical needs, his mission wasn't for any of that. Jesus didn't come for this world; he came to save people from it.

Meaning, the Jews didn't get a political leader, Rome didn't need to worry about a revolutionary, and the pharisees and the nation of Israel were not freed from oppression. Jesus came for one mission and one mission only, to do the will of God the Father (John 6:38), and the Father's will is to ensure that no one should perish. (John 6:39)

Knowing that Jesus and God the Father's will is for no one to perish, then what should your will be, as a Christ-follower?

On a Scale of 1-10, how often do you find yourself making God's will a priority in your life? (Parenting, Career, Marriage, Politics)

LIFEWAY
LIFE



DEVOTE DAILY

Read James 1:5-8

What does God promise to give you if you ask?

When James tells us to ask for wisdom, are we limited in what we can ask wisdom for, from God?

What are the requirements for receiving wisdom?

God loves and cares for you so much that he desires to give you the wisdom you need to do his will in your life, in all areas of your life! All we have to do is ask. But James instructs us on how we should ask. He says it needs to be with undivided loyalty.

Undivided loyalty is seeking the wisdom and will of God without turning to the wisdom and winds of the world and culture, which blow and toss us around until we are further away from the will of God for our lives. It's having the lens of Christ in all situations. How do we practice undivided loyalty when seeking the wisdom and will of God?

We go to scripture for wisdom in our lives. You don't look to the world and the culture for wisdom on how you are to live your life and make your choices. One of the best ways you can have undivided loyalty is seeing what scripture says about a certain topic and living it out.

It's opening up your bible and seeing what God has to say about parenting, and then doing it. It's opening up your bible and seeing what God has to say about listening to authority, and then doing it. It's opening up your bible and seeing what God has to say about money, and then doing it. It's opening up your bible and seeing what God has to say about purity, and then doing it.

It's taking ANYTHING the world tells you and first filtering it through what God has ALREADY told you, and then asking Him for wisdom on that topic. When you do this, God says he WILL give you wisdom.

As human beings, we tend to ask God for wisdom and immediately turn to the world and its wisdom, and then take what it says as "best" or even "from God", because we become impatient waiting for God to speak. Another thing we tend to do is, we just don't know where to look in his word. So, we jump directly to what the world and culture says. Now be aware, if you seek wisdom this way, scripture says you'll be double minded, and James says in verse 7, "Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord." We want you to understand, God says you won't receive ANYTHING, because you don't ask with genuine loyalty, believing that God can and will provide for you. Your faith is still tied to the world and its wisdom.

What area of life do you feel that you are fully devoted to God?

What area of life do you have divided loyalty?



TAKE HOME ASSIGNMENT

Reflect on the one area of your life you just identified where you have divided loyalty, and this week, spend time in prayer praying Proverbs 3:5-6 out loud.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him and he will make your paths straight."

Proverbs 3:5-6 NLT

Also, find two verses for that area of your life that you have divided loyalty, and put them on the mirror in your bathroom, as your cellphone lock screen, taped to the sun visor of your car. Put the scriptures somewhere where you will see them often, so that you can constantly be reminded of God's truth in that specific area of your life.

MEMORY VERSE

John 14:15

If you love me, obey my commandments.

