

A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Series Theme: From Meetings to Mission

Text for the Week: John 21:20-25

Message for the Week: Fully Alive

Week #7 PENTECOST SUNDAY

Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

What song (hymn) best describes your (current) relationship to Jesus?

Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read <u>John 21:20-25</u> out loud. [Clicking this link will bring you to multiple translations.]

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, take note of, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

Respond / Reflect:

What is your "calling?" What are your gifts and abilities that you can offer to Jesus to use?

What are the critical, non-negotiable, elements in being a "follower" of Jesus?

Are you more active or contemplative, more of a shepherd or a teacher, more bold or more reflective, more like Peter or more like John?

How have you been "persecuted" in the last year? (cf. 2 Timothy 3:16)

Why do we always like to compare ourselves with others and compete against them? How can this be harmful?

How is/has God used your failures and weaknesses on his mission?

"Try It!"

Offer a blessing to someone this week. It can be an act of mercy, or a verbal blessing. For example, have mom and dad go around the table and speak a blessing over each person one at a time. Call a friend you haven't seen or talked to for a while and bless them.

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you. Pray this prayer together:

Father, thank you for raising Jesus from the dead and for providing us a future in the middle of our guilt, our grieving, our pain, and our life's messes. Thank you for the miracles you do in our life, for your daily provision, and for your willingness to forgive our failures. Thank you for restoring our heart and soul. Thank you for using us, even in our brokenness, to care for each other, for the marginalized, the weakest, and the most vulnerable. Father, make us shepherds actively pursuing Acts of obedience and fully abiding in you as we follow Jesus on mission to build his Church. In the name of the risen Christ. Amen.

Missional/Spiritual Practice for the Month: Eating and Drinking with Others

During the month of June, you are encouraged to eat and drink with people that you don't know very well (Luke 10). It could be a neighbor, a classmate, or co-worker. Take advantage of National Doughnut Day on June 3 or international picnic day on June 18. Have a neighborhood popsicle or ice cream day in your neighborhood. Eat at the restaurant that is closest to your house and be open to meeting and greeting new people while you are eating there. Experiment with different ways to eat and drink with new people.