
Life Group Leaders' Guide: Available: Living a Life Ready for God to Use

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin with prayer, asking God to make your hearts available to Him. Ask Him to help you notice His quiet invitations, be interruptible, and serve from love rather than recognition or control.

Pray that He would reveal anything keeping you from obedience, including busyness, comfort, or your own agenda. Ask Him to give you humility, courage, and margin to join what He is already doing.

Worship Song Suggestions (10 minutes)

"Available" by Elevation Worship

"Make Room" by Community Music

"I Surrender" by Hillsong Worship

"The Heart of Worship" by Matt Redman

Ice Breaker (10 minutes)

Question: What is a small act of kindness or service someone did for you that you still remember? It could be something simple, unnoticed by others, or "behind the scenes" that made you feel loved or supported.

Key Takeaways (5 minutes)

1. Availability requires honest self-examination. There is a pendulum between being completely unavailable (consumed by self) and being overly available (serving from bitterness, people-pleasing, or a need for approval). The healthy center is being compelled by love -- serving as a natural overflow of intimacy with God.
2. The four marks of a truly available life:
 - **Interruptible:** Always aware and ready for God to move, even in small, unnoticed moments
 - **Inconvenienced:** Willing to give up comfort and personal plans for the call of God
 - **Intentional:** Cultivating rhythms and margin that keep the kingdom first
 - **Incorporable:** Willing to submit personal goals and visions to join what God is already doing
3. **The secret place is the source.** Intentionality and availability do not come from willpower. They flow from consistent time spent with God in prayer and Scripture. When we prioritize the secret place, God reorients our day and our desires.
4. **Obedience is better than sacrifice.** The story of Saul warns us that partial obedience, doing what is convenient while holding back what costs us, is still disobedience. We can even convince ourselves that our own will is God's will. Repentance and honest acknowledgment are what keep us in right standing.

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5. **Being with God matters more than doing things for God.** The goal is not to be used by God but to know God. Ministry and service flow best when they come from genuine relationship, not from a desire to feel important or recognized.
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Discussion Questions

Opening (Choose One) (10–15 Minutes)

Take a few minutes to get everyone talking before diving into the deeper content.

- When was the last time you felt genuinely fulfilled by serving someone else? What made that moment meaningful?
 - Describe a time when you were so busy or preoccupied that you missed what might have been a God-given moment with someone around you.
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Going Deeper (15–20 Minutes)

On the Pendulum

1. The sermon describes two unhealthy extremes -- being completely unavailable (self-focused) and being overly available (serving from wrong motives like people-pleasing or a need for approval). Where do you honestly find yourself on that pendulum right now? What has contributed to that position?
2. The speaker says that our experiences, upbringing, and wounds shape the lenses through which we see the world. How have your past experiences influenced the way you serve others or relate to God?

Being Interruptible.

3. Think about a typical day in your life. How much room exists for God to interrupt your plans? What fills that space instead?
4. In the sermon, Pastor Bren points out that Jesus was consistently interruptible, stopping for the bleeding woman, welcoming children, noticing the overlooked. What would it look like practically for you to carry that same awareness into your daily routine?

Being Inconvenienced

5. Elisha burned his oxen and left his livelihood behind when God called him. Amos left his flock. William Tyndale gave his life. These are extreme examples, but what is something in your life that God may be asking you to loosen your grip on to follow him more freely?
6. The speaker describes how comfortable modern life can make us resistant to inconvenience. In what areas of your life has comfort become a barrier to obedience?

Being Intentional

7. The sermon describes a cycle: wake, work, activities, dinner, screen time, repeat; that keeps us spiritually distracted without ever feeling obviously sinful. Do you recognize that cycle in your own life? What would it take to break it?
8. What does your current rhythm of time with God look like? Is it consistent enough to actually reorient your priorities for the day? What is one realistic change you could make?

Being Incorporable

9. Pastor Bren shares that he often had his own ministry ideas and visions, but found greater fulfillment when he simply joined what God was already doing through others. Have you ever felt the tension between your own plans and what God was already doing around you? How did you respond?
10. Is there a person, ministry, or community around you right now that God may be inviting you to join rather than build something separate?

The Warning from Saul

11. Saul convinced himself that his partial obedience was full obedience. He even blamed others for his own decisions. In what areas of your life might you be rationalizing partial obedience and calling it faithfulness?
 12. The contrast between Saul and David is repentance. David fell on his face and acknowledged his sin. Saul covered up and deflected. Which response comes more naturally to you when you are confronted with your own failure? What makes repentance difficult?
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Practical Applications (10 minutes)**This Week, Choose One or More of the Following:**

Choose one or more of the following to put into practice this week before your group meets again.

1. Build margin into one day this week. Pick one day and intentionally leave unscheduled space. Before you leave the house, ask God: "Is there anyone you want to encounter through me today?" Pay attention to what happens.
2. Audit your schedule together. If you are married or in close community, sit down with someone you trust and honestly evaluate your current rhythms. Ask: What is producing life? What is draining us? What needs to be removed to make room for what matters most?
3. Start or restart the secret place. Commit to giving God the first portion of your morning for one week; even fifteen minutes. No agenda. Just quiet, Scripture, and prayer. At the end of the week, reflect on whether your perspective or priorities shifted.

4. Join something already in motion. Identify one ministry, act of service, or need in your community that already exists. Instead of starting something new, find a way to serve within what is already happening.
 5. Practice a moment of repentance. In light of the Day of Atonement theme from the sermon, take time alone or with your group to honestly acknowledge one area where your will has taken priority over God's. Confess it simply and receive the freedom that comes with it.
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Closing Reflection (5 minutes)

Close your group time by praying together. You may use this as a guide:

Pastor Bren. closes with these words from the speaker:

"If the highest place I'll reach is at your feet, then I've seen it all, then I've done it all, then I've had it all."

Take a few minutes as a group to sit with that statement. Then close in prayer, inviting each person who is willing to offer a simple phrase to God -- something they are laying down, something they are making room for, or simply: "Here I am, Lord. Send me."

Additional Discussion Questions to Choose From

Pastor Bren describes a pendulum between being completely unavailable to God and being overly available out of a need for approval or affirmation; where do you honestly find yourself on that pendulum, and what experiences or wounds have pushed you toward that extreme?

Pastor Bren emphasizes that being 'compelled by love' is the only healthy motivation for serving others; in what ways might your current acts of service be driven by something other than an overflow of genuine encounter with Christ?

The concept of being interruptible suggests that God often moves through small, unnoticed moments rather than grand gestures. Can you recall a time when you either responded to or ignored one of those quiet nudges, and what was the outcome?

Elisha, Amos, and Ezekiel each abandoned established, secure lives the moment God called them, with no promise of comfort or recognition. What would it look like in your own life to respond to God's call with that level of willingness to be inconvenienced?

William Tyndale gave his life to translate Scripture so ordinary people could access God's word, and he never saw the fruit of that sacrifice. How does his story challenge the way you think about doing kingdom work that may go unrecognized or unrewarded in your lifetime?

Pastor Bren warns that we can convince ourselves, as Saul did, that we are obeying God when we are actually pursuing our own agenda with a spiritual label. How do you personally discern the difference between God's direction and your own desires dressed up as calling?

The contrast between David and Saul centers on the willingness to repent immediately and honestly rather than deflect or cover up. What does your own pattern of response to conviction reveal about the condition of your heart before God?

Pastor Bren describes the 'secret place' as the source from which all fruitful service must flow, arguing that busyness and a packed schedule are among the enemy's most effective tools -- what specific rhythms or habits in your life might be crowding out genuine time with God?

The idea of incorporability challenges us to submit our personal visions and ministry ambitions to what God is already doing through others. Is there an area where your desire to build something of your own might be keeping you from joining a movement God has already set in motion?

Pastor Bren references the sobering warning in Scripture about those who will claim to have prophesied and cast out demons in God's name yet will be told He never knew them -- how does that passage shape the way you think about the difference between doing things for God versus being genuinely known by Him?

Leader Notes

- This message touches themes that can feel very personal: availability to God, busyness, burnout, mixed motives in serving, insecurity, people-pleasing, craving approval, feeling stuck, family responsibilities, surrender, disappointment, obedience, margin, spiritual distraction, unforgiveness, and the desire to be used by God. Create a safe space where people can be honest about where they are without feeling shamed, rushed, or pressured to “do more for God.”
- A helpful direction for the discussion: move from “God, use me” to “God, have me”; from striving to be significant to being present with Jesus; from self-driven service to Spirit-led availability; from overcommitted busyness to healthy margin; from needing recognition to being compelled by love; and from building our own plans to joining what God is already doing.
- The goal is not to make people feel guilty for being busy, tired, unavailable, or overwhelmed. The goal is to help people see that Jesus invites us into a life of surrendered availability where we are interruptible, willing to be inconvenienced, intentional with our rhythms, and open to joining His kingdom work wherever He is already moving.
- Keep bringing the conversation back to the message’s central truth: availability flows from intimacy with Jesus. We are not called to serve from insecurity, comparison, bitterness, or the need for affirmation. We are called to serve from the overflow of being loved by Christ. The healthiest availability is not frantic or performative; it is compelled by love.
- Be careful not to let the discussion turn into a pressure-filled conversation about everyone needing to radically change their life overnight. Some people may already be exhausted. Some may be carrying heavy family burdens, work stress, grief, financial pressure, or caregiving responsibilities. For them, “be available” may sound like “add more to your already full life.” Help the group understand that availability does not always mean adding more activity. Sometimes it means slowing down, creating margin, being present with your kids, answering a friend’s call, forgiving someone, praying for a person in front of you, or simply asking God, “What are You doing today?”
- Also be mindful of the pendulum the message named: some people are unavailable because their lives are too crowded with self, distraction, or survival. Others are overly available because they are serving from unhealthy motives, fear of disappointing people, or a need to be seen. Do not assume everyone needs the same application. Some may need to say “yes” to God in a new way. Others may need to say “no” to good things so they can return to the secret place with Jesus.
- A helpful emphasis: being interruptible does not mean living chaotically or neglecting responsibilities. Jesus was interruptible, but He was also deeply connected to the Father. The point is not to abandon wisdom, planning, family, work, or boundaries. The point is to hold our plans with open hands and remain attentive to the Holy Spirit in ordinary moments.

5-Day Devotional: Available: Living a Life Interrupted by God

Day 1: The Interruptible Life

Reading: Mark 5:21–34

Devotional:

How often do we push through the day with our heads down, locked onto our own agenda, never lifting our eyes to the souls around us? Jesus was on an urgent mission, as a child was dying, yet He stopped. He noticed. He was interruptible.

The same Spirit who lived in Jesus lives in you. The question is not whether God is speaking. The question is whether you are listening.

Today, slow down long enough to notice the person in the waiting room, the coworker eating alone, or the neighbor who never waves back. God does not always call you to a stage. Sometimes He calls you to simply turn around.

Reflection:

What is one thing on your agenda today that you could surrender to make room for a divine interruption?

Day 2: The Cost of Inconvenience

Reading: 1 Kings 19:19–21

Devotional:

Elisha left his oxen and livelihood behind to follow the call God placed on him through Elijah. He did not ask for a transition plan or negotiate a safety net. He slaughtered his oxen, burned his equipment, and walked away from the life he had always known.

God rarely calls us into comfort. He calls us into faithfulness. The prophets Elisha, Amos, and Ezekiel all left established, secure lives to carry a word they did not choose. William Tyndale translated Scripture with blistered fingers and died before seeing a single result.

Inconvenience is not a sign that you missed God. It is often confirmation that you found Him. What comfort are you holding onto that may be keeping you from the call?

Reflection: Is there an area of your life where convenience has quietly become a higher priority than obedience?

Day 3: The Secret Place and the Intentional Life

Reading: Romans 12:1–2

Devotional:

Intentionality does not begin with a planner or productivity system. It begins in the secret place. When you give God the first fruits of your day, He reorders your priorities from the inside out.

The noise of life, including to-do lists, schedules, and the cycles the enemy sets and forgets, will always rush in to fill the silence. But when you sit before God and surrender your agenda, He provides what you need for that day. Not tomorrow. Not next year. Just today.

Like manna in the wilderness, His provision is daily, and His presence is enough. Stop reaching for Egypt. The bread of heaven is already here.

Reflection:

What does your current morning rhythm look like, and is there honest space in it for God to speak?

Day 4: Joining What God Is Already Doing

Reading: Isaiah 6:1–8

Devotional: Isaiah did not volunteer out of ambition. He responded out of encounter. He had seen the Lord, high and lifted up, and that vision dismantled every personal agenda he had carried through the door.

True availability is not manufactured through discipline alone. It is born in God's presence. Sometimes the most faithful thing you can do is not start something new, but humbly join what God is already building through someone else.

The Kingdom does not need more platforms. It needs more people who say, without condition or negotiation, "Here I am. Send me." Let your encounter with God be the source of your yes.

Reflection:

Is there a Kingdom movement already happening around you that God may be asking you to join rather than lead?

Day 5: Obedience Over Sacrifice**Reading:** 1 Samuel 15:20–23**Devotional:**

Saul convinced himself he had obeyed. He kept what was useful, discarded what was not, and dressed his disobedience in the language of worship.

This is one of the most dangerous places a believer can occupy: sincerely believing your will and God's will are the same. The difference between Saul and David was not the absence of failure. It was the presence of repentance. David fell hard, but he fell on his face before God.

Acknowledgment is where transformation begins. Today, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any area where you have been selectively obedient, where you have obeyed in ways that suited you and quietly set aside the rest.

Reflection:

Is there a word God has spoken over your life that you have edited, added to, or quietly set aside in favor of your own version of the plan?