

MAIN IDEA: STOP NEGOTIATING!

KEY SCRIPTURES: MATTHEW 6:5-15

- Each week begin with **FOCUS** - an intentional time to slow down, quiet the noise, and become attentive to God. Feel free to use this [SONG LINK](#) during this time.

Reflect: Be formed by God's Word.

1. We often want “God’s guidance without God’s governance.” How can we recognize when we’re asking Him to approve our plans rather than lead us? (Matthew 6:13)
2. Read Matthew 26:39. What does Jesus’ prayer teach us about surrender when obedience is costly or hard to understand?
3. “God’s direction is protective, not restrictive.” How does this shape your response to His “no” or “wait”? When have you experienced His protection?
4. Read James 1:2–4, 13. Trials can grow our faith, but God never tempts us to sin. How does this shape your understanding of hardship and faithfulness through it?
5. When tempted, do you tend to minimize it, make peace with it, or handle it alone? How might that keep you from receiving God’s strength and others’ support?
6. Read Colossians 1:13–14. How does knowing Jesus has rescued you change the way you face ongoing struggles? What does depending on Him look like beyond trying harder?

Respond: Put faith into practice.

1. Where are you resisting God’s direction while reserving the right to overrule Him? What step of obedience will you take this week?
2. Where are you “flirting with the line”? What boundary would help you create distance from temptation?
3. When are you most vulnerable to temptation? How could you “watch and pray” before the pressure builds? (Matthew 26:41)
4. “Take the exit” - What “way out” might God be providing? Who could pray with you and support your next step? (1 Corinthians 10:13)

PRAYER: Father, we want to follow where You lead. Show us where we are still negotiating, and help us trust Your loving direction. Shape our desires, teach us to watch and pray, and give us courage to take the way out You provide. Thank You, Jesus, for rescuing us from darkness. We depend on Your strength as we take our next steps of obedience. Your will be done in our lives. Amen.