

In His Steps: Practicing the Way – Week 11 Small Group Questions

Opening Prayer

Ice Breaker

1. If you had to spend one full day with no phone, TV, or internet, what would you do? Would it be hard for you?
2. Are you someone enjoys silence, or do you always prefer background noise?

Discuss

Main Scriptures: Luke 5:15-16

1. Pastor Justin said that silence is rare in our noisy, digital world. What are the biggest sources of noise or distraction in your life right now? How do you think constant noise can affect our relationship with God?
2. In Luke 5:16, the word translated “lonely places” comes from the Greek word *erēmos*, meaning desert or solitary place. Why do you think solitude was important for Jesus’ relationship with the Father?
3. Dallas Willard said, “Silence is frightening because it strips us...throwing us upon the stark realities of our life.” What might silence reveal about our hearts when we finally slow down?
4. In Matthew 4:1-2, Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness before facing Satan’s temptations. What role do you think prayer, silence, and fasting played in preparing Jesus for that moment? How might practicing silence prepare us for spiritual difficulties?
5. In Matthew 26:38-39, Jesus went to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane under immense pressure. What does Jesus’ response to suffering teach us about bringing our struggles honestly before God?
6. After the miracle of feeding the 5,000, Matthew 14:22–23 says Jesus sent the crowds away and went up on a mountainside by Himself to pray. Why do you think Jesus chose solitude with the Father immediately after such a great success? What does this teach us about staying grounded in God when things are going well?

7. In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus prayed, “Yet I want Your will to be done, not mine.” What does this prayer teach us about surrender? How can practicing silence and solitude help us trust God’s will even when life is difficult or uncertain?

Practice

Start each day this week with 2-5 minutes of silence before God.