

Sunday Recap Guide: Be HERE Now

Lakeside Church | Past Present Future Series

Big Idea: Proximity doesn't guarantee presence. God calls us to be fully present, attentive to what He is doing, and intentional about how we respond.

Key Scripture: Luke 10:38–42 (NLT)

Group Goal: Encourage one another to recognize what God is doing in the present, identify distractions that keep us from being fully engaged, and take intentional next steps in our faith, relationships, and service.

Encouragement

Check in with everyone | Highs & Lows

Begin by creating a welcoming space where everyone has an opportunity to share and be heard. Give each person your full attention as they share.

Opening question: How have you been doing this week, and what has been taking up most of your attention lately?

Highs & Lows

- What was a highlight or blessing from your week?
- What has been challenging, stressful, or distracting?
- When did you feel most connected to God or the people around you this week?
- Was there a moment when you were physically present with someone but mentally somewhere else?

Encourage one another: As people share, listen without rushing to fix their problems. Celebrate their wins, acknowledge their challenges, and remind one another that everyone deserves to be seen, heard, and loved.

Leader reminder

Model presence by putting away distractions, listening attentively, and making room for everyone to contribute.

Scripture

Deep dive Bible study | Luke 10:38–42

Read Luke 10:38–42 together.

Jesus visits Martha and Mary. Martha becomes distracted by preparing a meal, while Mary sits at Jesus' feet and listens to Him. When Martha complains, Jesus gently points out that Mary has chosen what is most important.

1. Presence is more than proximity

The message reminds us that being physically present does not guarantee that we are mentally, emotionally, or spiritually engaged.

Discussion questions

- What stands out to you about the difference between Martha and Mary?
- Where in your life are you physically present but mentally distracted—at home, at work, in church, or in your relationships?
- The message says, “There’s a difference between being in attendance and being at attention.” What does that mean in your walk with God?
- What are some ways distraction affects your ability to connect with God and others?

2. Distraction can keep us from discerning what God is doing

In verse 40, Martha is described as distracted by all the preparations. The message emphasizes that distraction can hinder discernment—the ability to recognize what God is doing and know how to respond.

Discussion questions

- Why do you think Martha became so focused on the preparations that she missed the opportunity to sit with Jesus?
- What distractions most commonly compete for your attention? Consider your phone, work, responsibilities, worry, busyness, or expectations of others.
- Have you ever been so focused on what you needed to accomplish that you missed what God was doing in the moment?
- What might God be inviting you to notice or respond to in this current season?

3. Attention communicates value

The message teaches that we tend to give our attention to what we value most. Mary demonstrated the importance of recognizing the moment and prioritizing time with Jesus.

Discussion questions

- What does the way you spend your time and attention reveal about your priorities?
- How can distractions affect your marriage, friendships, family, or community?

- What would giving God your undivided attention look like in your everyday life?
- How can we help one another stay spiritually engaged without becoming judgmental or legalistic?

4. Recognize the present moment and respond

The message challenges us to discern what God is doing now and to be fully engaged in His work rather than simply occupying space.

Read Genesis 28:16 (GW): Jacob awakens and recognizes that the Lord is in that place, even though he had not realized it.

Discussion questions

- What does Jacob's realization teach us about becoming aware of God's presence?
- Where might God already be working in your family, workplace, church, or community?
- Is there an area where you have been sitting on the sidelines instead of getting involved?
- What is one way you can be more present and engaged in what God is doing this week?

Key takeaways

Proximity doesn't guarantee presence.

Being in the room is not the same as being attentive and engaged.

Distraction hinders discernment.

Constant busyness can prevent us from recognizing what God is doing.

Attention communicates value.

Our time and attention reveal what we prioritize.

Be here now.

Be fully present with God, the people around you, and the opportunities He places before you.

Prayer

Pray for one another | Respond to God's invitation

Transition from discussion into a time of honest prayer. Invite everyone to share prayer requests, and make sure no one leaves without being prayed for.

Prayer prompts

- Awareness: Ask God to help you recognize His presence and what He is doing in your current season.
- Focus: Pray for freedom from distractions, anxiety, and the constant pull of competing priorities.
- Relationships: Ask God to help you give your family and friends your full attention and to grow in listening, compassion, and connection.
- Purpose: Pray for courage to use your gifts, serve others, and step into opportunities God places before you.
- Church & community: Pray for Lakeside's locations, ministries, and missional opportunities, asking God to help more people encounter Jesus and find community.
- Personal needs: Pray for the specific struggles, decisions, and needs shared during the check-in.

Pray together:

“Jesus, help us be here now. Forgive us for the times we have allowed distractions and busyness to pull our attention away from You and the people You've placed in our lives. Give us hearts like Mary's, ready to sit at Your feet and listen. Help us recognize where You are working and respond with faith and obedience. Teach us to love others through our presence, use our gifts to serve, and live intentionally for Your purposes. Amen.”

Next Steps

Put the message into practice | Personal & church steps

The goal is not simply to talk about presence but to practice it. Encourage everyone to choose one specific action they can take this week.

Personal next steps

- Practice undistracted time with God. Set aside 10–15 minutes daily to pray, read Scripture, and listen without checking your phone.
- Be fully present with someone. Put your phone away during a meal or conversation and intentionally listen to the person in front of you.
- Identify one distraction to address. Set a boundary around social media, work, notifications, or another habit that regularly pulls you away from the present moment.
- Discern your current season. Ask God where He may already be working and what faithful response He is inviting you to make.

Church & community next steps

- Get involved at Lakeside. Explore serving opportunities and use your gifts to make a difference.

- Take your next step in discipleship. Connect with Starting Point or Growth Track if you are ready to grow in your faith and discover your next steps.
- Make a missional move. Consider attending a different service time or location if it would help create room for someone else to attend.
- Build community. Be intentional about showing up for your Group, checking in on members, and helping others feel seen and connected.
- Invest in someone else. Encourage someone who may be disconnected, invite them into community, or help them take a next step toward Jesus.

Personal commitment

What is one way you will “Be HERE Now” this week?

Give God my undivided attention.

Be more present in my relationships.

Set boundaries around distractions.

Take a step toward serving or getting involved.

Pay attention to where God is working.

Choose another specific next step.

My specific action this week

Copy my commitment

Closing question: If you lived this week fully present with God and the people He has placed around you, what might look different?