

Silence in Devotion

Kingdom value or skill you hope to see developed: Ability to set aside distraction and focus on God

Who this is for: Everyone

Desired impact on disciples: Deeper relationship with Jesus

Desired impact on campus/home/others: n/a

Spend time with Jesus daily, allowing Him to teach you through the study of scripture, prayer, and other spiritual disciplines. Regularly spend time reading through the stories of Jesus in the Gospels.

There are so many different things in this world that are trying to teach us how we should live our lives, but Jesus is the only one that offers true life. We spend so much time being taught by this world, it is crucial that we spend time daily at the feet of the True Teacher, Jesus!

Hear the word

John 15:1-17

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.

- What do you see about our connection to Jesus, and to the Father in the passage?
- What specific things does this passage call us to abide (or remain) in?
- What does it mean for us to abide in Jesus?
- Looking in the passage, why does Jesus tell us these commands?
- We sit at the feet of Jesus as a response to who Jesus is and what He has done; but sometimes we forget about His goodness and we sit at the feet of other things (TV, classes, friends, etc.). What things have taken the place of you sitting at Jesus feet?
- How does this passage challenge you or encourage you to sit at Jesus’ feet?

Respond actively

We live in a busy and noisy world. Some days we never connect with Jesus because so many other things are fighting for our time and attention. John 15 calls us to “abide in” Jesus. He should be the place we rest and the place that our work flows from.

Plan an hour block today where you can be silent before the Lord. Take your Bible and a journal (no music, turn off your phone, etc.) and interact with the Lord through reading His word and prayer. Be silent for this hour! There will be many distractions that come to mind, write them down so you can get to them later.

- Tips: start in prayer by asking Jesus to clear your mind of all other thoughts and focusing your heart on the Lord.
- Try listening prayer: spend a minute in prayer by praying words to God, then spent 10 minutes in prayer by listening to his response.
- God’s word has already been given to us!!! Spend time reading through scripture as you are listening to God in prayer.

Debrief and Interpret

Answer after you do the hour of silence.

- What did it feel like to sit in the Lord’s presence for an hour?
- What things did you do during the hour? How did they help you connect with Jesus?
- What new things did you learn or experience through John 15 and silent prayer?
- How could you better integrate sitting at Jesus’ feet into you daily life? What’s one thing you can start tomorrow?

Expand the influence

Fast from one of your distractions for a full day