

LUKE 4:38-44

10 JULY 2022

ICE BREAKER: Describe a habit, that’s not necessarily spiritual, you’d like to add to your life.

GROUP QUESTIONS:

This chapter gives us a glimpse into the **demanding, busy life** of Jesus Christ. Jesus spent 40 days fasting and praying in the desert, fighting off Satan’s powerful temptations. Leaving the desert, Jesus returned home to Nazareth to preach the Gospel, but had to escape being thrown down a cliff by an angry mob.

Leaving Nazareth, he traveled to Capernaum to preach in the synagogue, delivering a demon-possessed man. Afterwards, Jesus went to Peter’s home and there he healed Peter’s mother-in-law from a high fever. In the same evening, crowds brought sick and demonized loved ones to Jesus. Jesus spent the whole night healing every one of them.

1. In a busy schedule, how do you often respond to others when everyone wants a piece of you...now?!

(Read verse 42) Our society is **non-stop**, open 24 hours 7 days a week. Americans value **busyness**. Many of us have **multiple** jobs, hobbies, volunteer positions, and family responsibilities to juggle, all while using, learning to use, or maintaining more gadgets than we need. We cannot simply get together. We must schedule a time to get together. Our society equates success with busyness.

As His schedule and tasks increased, Jesus did **not just get busier or work harder**. Actually, He purposely **stopped and left** to solitary places. Mark 1:35 adds that Jesus went to a solitary place “where he **prayed**.”

2. How does Jesus’ response to busyness and the constant demand of others inspire or challenge you?

(Read Mark 1: 35-39) When Jesus went to a **solitary place to pray** to God the Father, the people went looking for him. Mark 1:36 states, “Simon (Peter) and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: ‘Everyone is looking for you!’”

Peter and his companions were **stressed and frustrated**. Jesus, through a **morning of prayer**, is a picture of **peace and direction**. For Jesus, regular time of prayer and communion with the Father was the **first thing** and the **most important thing**. It was a **fixed habit** which nothing and no one could take precedence.

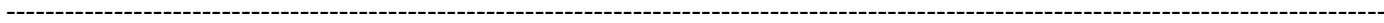
3. When your daily devotions are not a fixed habit, what often happens when you face increasing demands?

(Read verses 42-44) The people tried to keep Jesus from leaving them. Jesus’ own disciples wanted Him to stay and continue meeting the people’s needs. Yet, Jesus said “**No**” to all of them. He declared, ‘I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is **why I was sent**.’

Saying “**Yes**” to God often means saying “**No**” to people. However, saying “No” to people is often **difficult and painful**. Many of us find it hard saying “No” to others. We just do not like the pain involved. Yet, through **prayer and time alone** with the Father, Jesus was able to do so **with purpose and without hesitation**. Jesus’ **only answer** to busyness and the constant demand of others is simply this—**pray!**

4. What is a change you could make right now to make prayer the #1 priority of your day?

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE & USE PRAYER LIST AS BIBLE BOOK MARKER



PRAYER GROUP TIME

(Make a list of people whom those in your group plan to witness Christ to this week.)
