

Dear **Son Servant**,

Many of you may have hoped to come on a Son Servants trip this summer, and then, our whole lives got turned around. A lot of life became cancelled around us or postponed. No one was prepared for it. One of the themes that has been threaded throughout our trips for 38 years now has been that we **have to be flexible**. So here we are now as staff trying to be flexible with what we had planned for you, and hopefully as you work through this quiet time guide, God will meet you right where you are at such a time as this. If you are working through this guide, it is likely that your youth group is engaging in some kind of attempt to reach out into your community. Your leaders are trying to be creative with the circumstances that surround our globe right now by not allowing those circumstances to dictate to you that you can't serve for now. Instead, our present situation gives us new opportunities and pushes us to be creative with those circumstances. I have no idea why you are participating in this week with your youth group. Maybe you wanted to spend this week serving others and meeting new faces (even if that meant it had to be virtual), or maybe you're glad to get away from the "new normal" - there are any number of reasons you are participating in this. No matter your reason, our prayer is that you will open up your heart widely to let the Lord reveal Himself to you during this week. He will reveal Himself to you in lots of different ways: in the people you will serve, in your youth group, maybe even in the Son Servants staff, and our prayer is that He will speak to you very specifically through these quiet times.

This is your time for just you and the Lord. You can open up to Him like no other person. He knows you, every ounce of you, even better than you know yourself, and He loves you no matter what. You can't do anything that will cause His love to change for you; it is the same, "no matter what", unconditional love from the beginning of your life throughout eternity. In fact, He loved you even before you were born and deeply desires that you will desire to know and love Him more each day. In order for that love to grow, it is important that you spend time with Him, allowing Him to pour Himself into your heart.

This year we are focusing on what it means to live the "**Neighbor Life.**" In these quiet times, you will encounter all kinds of questions like:

- Who exactly is my neighbor?
- How do I love my neighbor?
- Why should I love my neighbor?
- Do I need to change the way I live my life in order to love my neighbor?

It's so easy to stay in a "ME-centered" world- where life revolves around what "I" want, what "I" need, and "MY" things. To think about shifting our lives to loving our neighbors involves reaching out into risky territory where we might get hurt or inconvenienced or slowed down, but we say, it's worth it. It's worth it to change.

Son Servants has used the motto "to love is to serve" for 38 years now, and there's some very rich meaning behind it that we hope you will discover as you meet with God during this week: serving with each other and worshipping together in the evenings. We pray that the Lord will meet you in very tender and deep ways, especially as you ponder what the contents of this guide will present to you. Now go and serve heartily!

Son Servant's Staff

Day 1: WHAT is the Neighbor Life?

Introduction

Do you have a purpose for your life?

Other ways of asking this is: *What drives you? What grounds you? What keeps you focused on what is right and true and good?*

These are some pretty heavy questions for your first day, but why not use this time in the best way possible, meeting with God and hashing out big questions like these with those who are with you during this week? This is an opportunity for you to get “up close and personal” with God and the other people who are surrounding you.

Take a moment to breathe deeply. Ask God to give you the courage to be very honest and real with Him and then others during this week. You can use your own prayer or read this one silently:

Pray

God, it's hard to REALLY be honest with myself, much less others and YOU! Sometimes, if not often, I am afraid of what You will say back or how others will reject me if I am really honest about what I am thinking/feeling/experiencing... But You brought me to this week for a purpose, and I don't want to miss the opportunity that You have given to me. Show me what YOUR purpose is for my life, and then empower me to live it according to YOUR way, not my own way of doing life. Amen.

Now, read the verses from the Bible below.

Read

Deuteronomy 6:6-9:

⁶“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

**God gave the Israelites these words when they were wandering around in the Wilderness after leaving Egypt. It was a longer journey than it should have been, but in order for them to be fit to enter the land God had promised them, God had to work hard on them, showing them what their*

purpose was. These verses are called "The Hebrew Creed," a "creed" being words that we profess and by which we endeavor to live.

Let's look at the equivalent passage in the New Testament and see its similarities and differences.

Please read **Luke 10:25-28**:

²⁵ "And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" ²⁷ And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

**Notice the lawyer's motive for asking Jesus the initial question, then look how Jesus turns it back on him with a question. Theologians often call verse 27, "The Jesus Creed."*

Like the Israelites in the Old Testament, the Jews that we see in the time of Jesus also needed to be reminded of what their purpose was. Throughout their long history, many of them had lost it, and part of Jesus' mission in coming was to clear up the distortions and distractions that had gotten into their system. So when the lawyer tests Jesus, Jesus gets right to the point.

Questions for Reflection

1. What similarities and differences do you see between these two passages?
2. Do you believe Luke 10:27 is the Creed with which we are to align our lives today? Explain.
3. Taking the "ALL" statements from Luke 10, how do you "unpack" them?
What does it mean to love with:
"all your heart?"
"all your soul?"
"all your strength?"
"all your mind?"
"and your neighbor as yourself?"

How do you define each underlined word? How do you define the word "all"? Does this seem possible?

4. How can this verse help to focus you in the decisions that you are making for your life right now (help to give you a true purpose)? What are some very tangible and practical ways that you can work on these in your life?

Challenge

You are living in the first double-digit decade of your life! It is so easy to think that you can "get serious about life" later, but the truth is that the decisions that you are making NOW will have an enormous impact on how you view and live your life in the coming second, third, fourth, etc...decade of your life. Hold me to that statement by asking some of the adults who are with you this week whether it is true for them or not and why!

Day Two: WHO is My Neighbor?

Introduction

Yesterday, we asked you an enormous question: *do you have a purpose for your life?* Another way of saying it would be: *how does God want you to live your life?* It is such an important question for us to think about, but honestly, it can be a very overwhelming one. SO today, you are going to look at The Parable of the Good Samaritan to help you in answering that question.

Most people know that parable- even those who don't read the Bible, but we are going to take a different approach. I'm going to ask you to personally enter into the story and try to connect with each character and to even try to see how those characters have shown up in your life.

But first, it is important to pause and ask God to give you His insight. You can use your own words or use these words to help you express your desires to Him.

Pray

Father, it's so easy to avoid pausing & thinking about what your purpose for my life might be. Instead, I just keep going through my normal routine - from one activity to the next. Help me to listen now to this story, to find myself in it, and to gain wisdom from it through Your Holy Spirit... You give us the promise from Psalm 32:8, "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go" (Ps. 32:8). Though it doesn't come naturally to me, help me be open for you to teach me, lead me, and empower me to act on Your leading. In the Name of Jesus. Amen.

Read

Luke 10:25-37

²⁵ And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" ²⁷ And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

²⁹ But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a

Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

**The very desert-like road from Jerusalem to Jericho was about 18 miles, and going that way travelers would be descending more than half a mile in elevation, so it was a very steep walk down. Furthermore, it was a major thoroughfare for caravans, military personnel, and people wanting to take the most direct routes. But when Jesus mentioned this road, his listeners would have recognized how dangerous the journey was. Nonetheless, each of these individuals had a major part in the story.*

Reread the story and notice all of the details of it. As you re-read this story, think about each character and their role in the story: the Robbers, the Priest and the Levite, the Samaritan, the Victim, and the Innkeeper.

Questions for Reflection

1. Each of the characters, except the Innkeeper, was on a journey and each of them took a different approach to the situation at hand:

- The Robbers were **"takers."** They took advantage of a vulnerable and alone traveler, assaulted him to the point of death and then took from him.
 - *In any given day or moment, we can approach life as a "taker." When we think we deserve what someone else has (and this can be beyond material possessions), that we've been given a raw deal in life and we are entitled to better, we actually take this posture.*
- The Priest and the Levite were **"keepers."** It is likely they were on their way to perform their religious duties, and their law said not to ever touch a dead body. Protecting their reputation and their lives, because after all they had worked hard to preserve them and to do the "right things," they actually ignored him, didn't even stop, and kept on going.
 - *We can easily slip into a life posture of: "I've worked hard. I deserve to keep what I have worked toward. Don't bother me, and I won't bother you."*

- The Samaritan was the “**giver.**” It says he had compassion. He noticed the need and responded lavishly. He saw the man, possibly a Jew (and the Jews hated the Samaritans), and used his resources to bind up his wounds and to take care of him until he could recuperate.
 - *Obviously, this is the way Jesus was saying we are to live- as givers, using what we have been given to help others.*

- The Victim was the “**receiver.**” He needed someone to help him or he would die, even if that someone was a person he may have hated.
 - *Sometimes we are the “receivers” of someone else’s giving to us.*

- The Innkeeper was the “**supplier/observer.**” The Innkeeper’s purpose was to house those on the journey. He had the space needed for the victim to recover and the Samaritan was able to use it.
 - *Sometimes we too are in the position to observe others or offer what we have to help...*

What do you think **the victim** might have been thinking and experiencing throughout this ordeal?

What about **the Innkeeper**?

2. Think of a recent encounter you have had with someone who needed help (during this week, at home, in your school/town/city). Which of these roles can you most identify with in that situation?

3. According to this parable, who is your neighbor?

Challenge

How does naming the roles in the story of the Good Samaritan help you think of what God's larger purpose for your life might be?

In his book, *Walking with God*, John Eldridge says that "step one in learning to listen to the voice of God is to ask the simple questions. You cannot start with the huge and desperate questions such as 'should I marry Ted (or what is the big purpose for my life)'... That's like learning to play the piano by starting with Mozart, learning to ski by doing double black diamonds."

So, perhaps the best way to start answering the question of how we should live our lives, is to simply attach the word- "today." "What is the purpose for my life *today*?"

And somehow, little by little, through our obedience He reveals His larger purposes. That seems so simple, but yet it is so profound because it means that we must daily surrender our agendas to His way. Not so easy! Can you do that for just today...and then tomorrow...one day at a time?

Jesus says in **Matthew 6:33 & 34** to "*seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore, do not be anxious for tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*"

Day Three: HOW Do I Live the Neighbor Life?

Introduction

In our quiet times yesterday we faced the very real truth in the Parable of the Good Samaritan that our neighbor is whomever God puts in our pathway (even if that person is someone that is very difficult for us to serve- i.e the Samaritans/Jews). So the question is, **"how do we serve them?"** And perhaps the bigger question is **"why do we serve them?"**

Today, we are going to look at a passage from Mark that gives us some strong clues.

The setting is right before Passover Week. It is the most significant week in history- the week of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the week of the Last Supper, the week of the brutal trials before the Sanhedrin, Herod and Pilate, the week of the excruciating Crucifixion, and the week of the Silent Day where He lay in the tomb. Here in this scene, we see Jesus again, as He had done before, warning the disciples of what is to come. Let's see if we can glean anything for us from this scene.

Prayer

You can use your own prayer and/or this prayer written by St. Francis of Assisi:

*"LORD, make me an instrument of thy peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life."*

And so Lord, I come to You, asking You to move toward those you have called me to serve, right here and now in this week. I come to You asking You to identify in me any impure

motives for serving and for You to clean me up so that I can serve You and others wholeheartedly and with a pure heart... In Your Servant Jesus' Name, Amen.

Read

Mark 10: 32-52

³² "And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, ³³ saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. ³⁴ And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise."

³⁵ And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." ³⁶ And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" ³⁷ And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." ³⁸ Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" ³⁹ And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

⁴¹ And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. ⁴² And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ⁴³ But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

⁴⁶ And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. ⁴⁷ And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁸ And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁹ And Jesus stopped and said, "Call

him." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart. Get up; he is calling you." ⁵⁰ And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹ And Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" And the blind man said to him, "Rabbi, let me recover my sight." ⁵² And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way."

Questions for Reflection

1. In **Mark 10:45** Jesus, talking about himself, says, "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." This verse frames the whole passage you just read... *What stark contrasts do you see in verses 35-45? What were James and John most concerned about?*
2. How did their request affect the other disciples?
3. Notice how Jesus shares with James and John a prophecy (or foretelling) of the gruesome death that he was to endure before achieving glory in verses 33 & 34 above. Now, notice what James and John ask Jesus for immediately after He has shared with them. How does this strike you?
4. Notice what Jesus does after He told them that He came as a servant (v. 46-52). What do you think this communicated to the disciples?
5. We can never be sure that our motives for serving are totally pure. For example: There are times we serve others just because it makes us look like we are "good people." Others will admire us for our "selflessness." And that just feels good; doesn't it?

We can however be honest by admitting our motives to God, to ourselves, and to others. "Pure" service is best done humbly, and humility is not one of those things that will automatically come to us by trying to get it...The best way to become humble in serving our neighbors is not in big, show-offish ways, nor in ways where we demand that a certain outcome is produced, but in quiet and consistent acts of service.

Take a few minutes and brainstorm some not-so-obvious ways that you can serve others today, during this week, and then thinking forward to ways you might continue to do this throughout the year:

6. The Puritans said, "Live as if you are living before an audience of ONE." What does this mean, and how can that way of living actually free us up to serve others with pure motives?

7. Who do you find most difficult to serve? Why?

8. Why is serving others so critical for our growth in Christ?

Challenge

Richard Foster says in *The Celebration of Discipline* that “when we see someone intently listening to another human being, we are witnessing service in action. When we see a person holding the sorrows of another in tender, loving care, we are witnessing service in action. When we see someone guarding the reputation of others, we are witnessing service in action. It is in these actions and many more like them that we get a picture of service... There is no flash, no glitz, no titanic anything.”

And then William Law, in his classic work *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*, tells us more: “Condescend to all the weaknesses and infirmities of your fellow creatures; cover their frailties; rejoice in their prosperities, receive their friendship; overlook their unkindness; forgive their malice; be a servant of servants, and condescend to do the lowest offices to the lowest of mankind.” These are very challenging words in the midst of a culture that celebrates ostentatious wealth, being in the spotlight of admiration and awards and holds in disdain the needy.

The Kingdom of God is an upside down kingdom compared to the values of our culture! Our distinct challenge in serving the way God wants to serve is to surrender ourselves continually by saying, “Lord, I will go where You want me to go. I will serve who You want me to serve. I will do what You want me to do for Your Kingdom purposes, for Your glory, because I am Yours. I am not my own. I have been bought with a price.” (1 Corinthians 6: 19, 20.)

Day Four: WHY Should I Live The Neighbor Life?

Introduction

How many of us wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, God! Thank you for giving me another day of life!?" Or do we say, "*Good God*, why is it morning already??" (Well, maybe it's not that abrupt, but maybe it is.) How we approach our days, one by one, reflects what we truly believe.

Ray Ortlund in his book on Isaiah ([God Saves Sinners](#)) says that many of us who profess to be Christians live like 'practical atheists.'" In other words, we act like our lives totally depend upon ourselves and our initiative to make our lives better even while claiming that we love Jesus.

The passage that we are going to read today points us in the right direction, and as we continue to serve and look toward the end of the week, it challenges us to look at the paradigm by which we live our lives.

You can use the prayer below or your own.

Prayer

Therese of Lisieux's "Little Way" prayer:

*"My life is an instant,
An hour which passes by;
My life is a moment
Which I have no power to stay.
You know, O my God,
That I love You here on earth-
I have only today."*

And so, Lord Jesus, help me to put feet to what you are saying to me today.

In the gracious name of Jesus, Amen.

1 Timothy 6:6-19

⁶“But godliness with contentment is great gain, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

¹¹ But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, ¹⁴ to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶ who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷ As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.”

Proverbs 30:7-9

⁷ Two things I ask of you;
deny them not to me before I die:
⁸ Remove far from me falsehood and lying;
give me neither poverty nor riches;

feed me with the food that is needful for me,
lest I be full and deny you
and say, "Who is the LORD?" or lest I be poor and steal
and profane the name of my God.

Questions for Reflection

1. Look at **1 Timothy 6: 6-10** again. Paul is writing a personal letter to Timothy (who is a younger disciple). Look carefully at what he is saying and what he isn't saying. As you look at it, *how do you think Paul is instructing us to approach our lives every day?*
2. If we see our lives more as a gift, day by day, we are more open to what God directs us to do, versus seeing our lives as an entitlement, where we deserve better than what we have been given. *What would it take for you to move toward seeing your life more as a gift rather than an entitlement?*
3. If our lives really are a gift, how should this change the way we see our possessions, our relationships, and our freedoms? (Often, people misinterpret these verses saying that having wealth is wrong. He isn't saying that.) *What does he say? How does Proverbs 30:7-9 address these concerns?*
4. Now read **1 Timothy 6: 11-19** again. What are the strong directives he gives to Timothy in these verses, and how can you translate them to your life?

6. Notice what Paul says in vv. 16-19. We can actually enjoy what He has given us, not feel guilty about having it, but in *what are we to be rich? How does this apply to what we have been saying about loving our neighbors?*

5. Be honest, how would you fill in the following statement:

If I had _____, then I would be happy and life would be good.

Some people say that God doesn't want us to be happy - that He only wants us to be holy - but I think that paints a picture of God that is pretty stern! I believe that God wants us to be happy and that He knows that the only way to true happiness is through *trusting Him* to wield holiness within us. Simply put, God doesn't want to be a means to an end.

John Eldredge in his book, *Walking with God*, says that often we see God as "the assistant to our life," versus seeing Him as our life. He says, "it's not that God doesn't want us to be happy; He does. It's just that He knows that until we are holy, we cannot really be happy. Until God has become our all, and we are fully His, we will continue to make idols of the good things He gives us. We are like a child who throws a fit because he cannot have a toy or watch TV. In the moment, he could care less that his mother adores him. His world is out of sorts. He does not see that his heart is not in the right place. He needs his mother's love and comfort far more that he needs the things he's made an idol of."

John Calvin has said that our hearts are "idol making factories," that once we've done business with one, another one easily creeps into our hearts. This could be quite a range of things: good grades, athleticism, getting into a certain college, having a boyfriend/girlfriend, parents that get along with you, etc.

Whatever you filled in the blank might be a good thing, but when God is further down the list then whatever it is you put in the blank, you are actually *using Him* to get your happiness, and you are not loving Him with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength...

Challenge

People often say, "Why did God let this happen to me?" Rarely do we ask, "Why am I not more fully surrendered to God?" Today's passages encourage us to A.) see life as a gift, not an entitlement--therefore, we should be content with what God given to us, B.) desire holiness, fleeing from that which prevents it, knowing that *holiness is the only true way to happiness*, C.) enjoy what has been given to us *without worshipping it*, D.) be rich and generous in loving our neighbors, and E.) live our lives with these focuses... Begin to think now on how you can take these back to your everyday lives at home.

Day Five: WHEN AND WHERE Should I Live the Neighbor Life?

Introduction

Tomorrow will be the end of this experience. I'm fairly certain that this week has flown by for you - it may feel like you just arrived! Today, I want you to look back on your other quiet times and put it all together. I want you to consider what you will do with what you have experienced.

You can either look at this time this week as "an experience" or as a "lifestyle choice." The "experience" angle says that it has been good to invest your life in what you have been doing this week, but now you have to get back to "normal living-" a "been there- done that" approach. The "lifestyle" angle says that you need to reorder some of your priorities and perspectives. It says you want to make some changes, and those changes can manifest themselves in a number of ways such as in how your approach all that you are involved in, how you view others, where you invest your time, how you order your priorities, etc...

The best changes are those which go from the inside out, where there is a heart change and then action following rather than vice versa. When we try to change our outward behavior without an inward change, it is usually very short-lived. So today, take time to evaluate where you are and what this time has meant to you personally.

You can use your own prayer and/or this prayer below.

Prayer

LORD, Jesus, I thank you for this time I have had during this week. Thank you for the people that have joined in this experience and for the things we have done. Thank you for the way You have so graciously been in our midst and met with us. You know me more deeply than I could ever imagine, so I ask that You help me to use this time now and today to understand what this week has meant on a larger scale beyond simply having this experience. So, I desire to listen intently, to see clearly, and then to respond with a humble obedience to how You desire for me to live my life forward. In the Name of Jesus, Amen.

Read

Hebrews 13:5-8

"Keep your life free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." ⁶ So we can confidently say,

2. What has God taught you about yourself?

3. How has this week affected your personal relationship with Jesus?

4. Some people define hypocrisy as “pretending to be someone you aren’t” – and that’s true. Another way to define it would be “not being who you are.” In other words, if we claim to be Christ’s, then it needs to be obvious to others that we are His. But the truth is that all of us are hypocritical from time to time; the difference is whether it defines who we are or not. In the James passage, we are called to act on our beliefs.

Looking back on the week and the other quiet times you have done, what changes would you like to make in your life?

5. The Hebrews passage you read today says that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. *Is it comforting for you that God never changes? How can this truth actually help you make the changes you need to make in your life?*

Challenge

Many people hate the pace of their lives; they feel like they are getting things done but not really living. It is the spirit of the age in which we live - to keep moving. But what are we moving toward, and is it really worth it?

We have examined some of those values this week, starting the week off with how we need to align our lives up with the Jesus Creed: to love the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul, mind and body, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. When we are so task oriented, living our lives from one activity, assignment, or requirement to the next, it is easy to feel very empty.

Billy Graham once said, "Beware of the barrenness of a busy life." Is that not so true? Many times we don't really live; we are just busy getting things done! As you go forward from this week, will you be courageous and humble enough to trust God to lead you where He wants you to go? Will you trust Him to realign your priorities and to steer you toward the people He wants you to be with and serve? Will you surrender your life to His way and will? Or will you go back to what we often call "real life"? Think about that.

In **John 10:10** Jesus said: *"The thief comes to kill, steal and destroy, but I have come that you might have life and life to the full."* It seems that He is saying His way is *THE way, THE truth, and THE life...* (John 14:6). Our prayer is that you will choose His way while you are still young so that it will follow you throughout your life!