



## **Group Discussion Guide: With Jesus On-On-One | January 23, 2022**

### **Begin with prayer (5 minutes).**

As you begin, pray to open your time together.

### **Split into three or four mini-groups for Scripture and reflection (20 minutes).**

In this sermon, Emerson spoke of Jesus' one-on-one (or one-on-two) interaction with Mary (and Martha) from Luke 10, focusing in on the question, "How can we overcome the distraction of our age and become fully attentive to the Presence of God?" For the next few moments, take some time to read and reflect together in smaller groups on Jesus' words and that question.

### **Read Luke 10:38-42.**

- When you think about being attentive to God's presence in your life, what does that mean to you?
- What are common distractions that you think people wrestle with when it comes to being aware of God's presence?
- What are common distractions that you yourself wrestle with in being attentive to God's presence?
- What words or phrases stand out to you personally from this short passage of Scripture?

After your allotted mini-group time is finished, have everyone circle back up in one big group to share their insights.

### **Come back together as a large group. Go over the sermon, sharing your thoughts and insights (35 minutes).**

- How did your mini-group discussions go? What sorts of things rose to the surface from those conversations?
- When you listened to the sermon from **Luke 10**, were you attentive to what God might have for you? How might attentiveness to what God has for you change how you engage with a Sunday message? Was there anything that that you felt like God was inviting you into from this message?
- What did you learn about being a follower or a disciple of Jesus from this passage and this sermon?
- In this sermon Emerson quoted pastor and author Thomas Kelly who said,



*“Our lives in a modern city grow too complex and overcrowded. Even the necessary obligations which we feel we must meet grow overnight, like Jack’s beanstalk, and before we know it we are bowed down with burdens, crushed under committees, strained, breathless, and hurried, panting through a never-ending program of appointments. We are too busy to be good wives to our husbands, good homemakers, good companions of our children, good friends to our friends, and with no time at all to be friends to the friendless. But if we withdraw from public engagements and interests, in order to spend quiet hours with the family, the guilty calls of citizenship whisper disquieting claims in our ears. Our children’s schools should receive our interest, the civic problems of our community need our attention, the wider issues of the nation and of the world are heavy upon us. Our professional status, our social obligations, our membership in this or that very important organization, put claims upon us. And in frantic fidelity we try to meet at least the necessary minimum of calls upon us. But we’re weary and breathless. And we know and regret that our life is slipping away, with our having tasted so little of the Peace and joy and serenity we are persuaded it should yield to a soul of wide caliber.”*

Do you resonate with these words at all? In what ways?

- In what ways or areas of life do you find yourself often identifying with someone like Martha (inattentive, nervous, stressed, anxious, and unfocused)? Explain.
- In what ways or areas of life do you find yourself identifying with someone like Mary (attentive, calm, at peace, non-anxious, and focused)? Explain.
- In this message, Emerson talked about the importance of **choosing** Jesus to be the “central organizing person” of your life. Have you altered your schedule, your finances, your everything to fit around Jesus and his schedule?
- In what ways could you stand to grow in this regard? How does something like organizing your life around the way of Jesus mesh with what you read in **Matthew 6:31-33** or **1 Corinthians 2:2** or **Philippians 3:4-10**?
- What can you take away from the fact that Mary **sat** with Jesus and **listened** to his teaching? What does sitting with and listening to Jesus look like for you today? What often gets in the way of you doing this more?
- What is one practical way you feel challenged to grow in obedience or in your relationship with God from this text?

### **Split into gendered accountability groups (15 minutes).**

Throughout this series, we’ll create space each week to have accountability with one another. This will provide each person a more intimate and hopefully safer space to share where they might struggle. Here are a few questions to guide this time after you split out from one another:



- How is your relationship with God lately?
- How is it with your soul?
- How are intentionally trying to impact your family to choose, sit with, and listen to Jesus?
- Is there anything from this message that made you uneasy or made you feel like you have fallen short of what God wants for you and your life? Explain.
- What has your time in Scripture and prayer been like recently?
- Who are you trying to bring to Lord? Who can this group be praying for?
- How can this group pray for you right now?

Finish by praying over and for one another.

**Come back as a large group and finish with intercessory prayer (10 minutes).**

Like each week, finish your group session with prayer. You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about through the week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close in prayer.