

EXPERIENCE GOD'S MORE TOGETHER CAMPAIGN PART 1 REARRANGING OUR LIVES AROUND GOD'S PRIORITIES

About this Study

This is a 21-day church-wide Growth Campaign to help us to realize the bigger ways God wants to reveal, empower, and work in and through our lives individually and as a family. We want to encourage and challenge each other to grow in our capacity to hear more, receive more, believe more, and follow God more closely.

How to get the most out of the study

1. Listen to the sermon
2. Take personal time to review the message by looking up Scriptures and reflecting on them, using the "Digging Deeper" tool in the weekly study guides.

The Bible teaches a process in Matthew 13:15, for getting a 30, 60, 100 return from God's Word. **That process is described as**

- a. Hearing with your ears
- b. Understanding with your hearts
- c. Turning or changing something about the way you live
- d. Asking God to heal and restore you through the Word

In Acts 17:11 we read that the Berean believers were noble because they received the message with great readiness and examined the Scripture every day to see if what Paul said was true. In other words, the deeper you dig the more you will change.

3. Memorize the Scripture of the week
4. Participate in a life group where you encourage others in their journey and seek to be accountable and receive prayer to be changed in the ways God shows you.
5. Give what you are receiving by sharing Jesus through words and actions in outreach to people outside of church.

DIGGING DEEPER

Memory verse: *"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."* (Matthew 6:33)

1. **Read Matthew 6:28-34** and consider what Jesus was saying about worry and anxiety. So many people struggle with anxiety. How can seeking to experience and understand God's heart and putting God first in your life help that?
2. We are discussing the importance of having things in God's order in our life, doing first things first. The book of Haggai is focused on this. It is about putting God in first order in areas of our lives so that the rest we can do will be blessed.

Read Haggai 1:1-10. In your own words describe what would be the results or consequences of not building the Temple first, which was their priority.

Read Haggai 2:18-19. Notice how he describes this as leaving the seed in the barn. What would be the result of planting the first fruits of their time, energy, and money in God's priorities?

3. **Read Luke 14:16-34.** Jesus gives a parable and teaching on what it means to put Jesus first in your life. What does this parable and the teaching on discipleship tell us about priorities? How do you think the Lord would've expected those making excuses for not coming to His banquet to reorganize their priorities? What do you think it means to count the cost when it comes to putting Jesus first? What has it cost you to put Jesus first?

4. **Read I Kings 17:7-16.**

Perhaps one of the most radical stories of what it might mean to put God's priorities first is the story of the widow of Zarephath. As you read it, think about what your emotional reaction would be to such a request. Notice the bigger story. What was the mindset of the widow as she faced lack? What does this teach us about the fact that it is faith triumphing over fear that is required to change our priorities. Can you think of a time when it felt like God was asking something unreasonable but used it to take you beyond your fears to a place of victory and abundance?

QUESTIONS FROM THE VIDEO FOR DISCUSSION

(Leaders choose the ones you feel are most relevant to your group)

Ice breaker

1. How would you describe yourself when it comes to being well ordered and meticulous verses free spirited and "creative?"

2.. Describe one of the most special ways that God has brought you into more than you had before you had a relationship with Jesus? What are some things you would like to ask God to help you have less of? What are some things you are especially asking Him to bring you more of in 2020?

3. Though Jesus lived a relatively short life, He completed everything God called Him to do because He put the most important or ultimate things before the "urgent" and secondary things. God doesn't shout or force His agenda on to us, but waits for us to seek it first. What are some of the "urgent" things in your life that most often try to distract you and crowd out the important things God wants you to focus on?

4. To put first things first we must carefully consider what God values most for our lives. This is often so different than what the world values. Of the four things mentioned which do you think the Lord might be speaking most to you about during this season. (Faith, Relationships/Community, Purpose, Stewarding health)

5. Which is the most challenging to you? Putting God first in faith-believing and trusting what God says, Time-scheduling His priorities including fellowship, reading the Bible, goin to church, witnessing to others, finances-giving your tithes and offerings, taking care of your health? **If you were to rearrange all of your priorities to be in alignment with God what do you think would be one or two of the first big changes you'd have to make?**

6. What are some premade decisions you believe God has called you to make, that you'd like people to pray and help you be accountable to keep?