

Life Small Groups – Big Impact Connections

THE LIFE OF A JESUS FOLLOWER

*STOP LIVING FOR JESUS
SO JESUS CAN
LIVE THROUGH YOU*

DAILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE: WEEK 8

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WEEK 8

UNBURDENED

DAY 1

A JESUS FOLLOWER *SPENDS TIME WITH GOD*

READ

Read the following passages slowly and carefully.

Mark 1:35

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Psalm 119:103-105

EXAMINE

Answer the following questions:

What does the Bible say?

What do these passages teach me about following Jesus?

APPLY

Apply the teaching of Scripture to your life.

How do these passages describe the Bible?

Hopefully, through this study, you've seen the benefits of investing in the same relationships Jesus Himself invested in. Over the next five days, we're going to focus on how to invest in these relationships.

The first investment is "God Time." This is time spent daily alone in fellowship with God. Jesus modeled this for us by giving priority time in His own life to being alone with the Father. In the same way, it's imperative that you choose daily to set aside time to be alone with Jesus. Everything in your life will rise and fall based on your time alone with Him.

For us, this means we devote one percent of our day (around 15 minutes) to Bible study and prayer. If you've been working through the personal studies each week, you're well on your way to establishing this habit. When we come to the words of Scripture, we're reading God's own words. That's what Paul meant when he said the Scriptures were "God-breathed" or "inspired" (2 Tim. 3:16).

Through the inspiration of the Spirit of God, the Bible is written in such a way that though the human authors are willing and integral participants, the very words of Scripture are God's own words. To spend time reading the Bible is to spend time hearing directly from God.

Additionally, through prayer, we have the ability to commune with God—to speak to Him and hear back from Him. When you devote one percent of your day to spending time with God, that will impact the remaining 99 percent of your day. So find a time and place, and meet with God daily.

When and where will you spend time alone with God?

DO

Obey the teaching of Scripture with your life.

How will you guard your time so that other things don't overtake the priority of spending time alone with God?

DAY 2

A JESUS FOLLOWER *GATHERS IN WORSHIP*

READ

Read the following passages slowly and carefully.

Hebrews 10:24-25

Psalm 95:1-3

Acts 2:46

EXAMINE

Answer the following questions:

What does the Bible say?

What do these passages teach me about following Jesus?

APPLY

Apply the teaching of Scripture to your life.

The second strategic way you must choose to invest your life is in “Gather Time.” Today we’ll focus on the one percent of your week (or about an hour and a half) as a Jesus follower that you spend worshiping with your church family. The regular worship time at your local church might be more or less than an hour and a half. The point here is that you agree to prioritize gathering in worship with your church.

In Scripture, church worship isn’t merely suggested; it’s commanded. We live in a day where a “regular” church attendee is someone who comes once a month, but the Bible calls us to a much higher standard. Again, we see this modeled in the life of Christ.

Before His death, burial, and resurrection, it was Jesus' custom to gather in the synagogue with God's people on the Sabbath day for worship. And this Sabbath practice of Jesus became the Sunday pattern of the early church after the resurrection. This is an essential part of following Jesus, not something we commit to when our travel schedule and kid's ball games permit.

Would you say you prioritize worshiping with your local church? If not, what priorities are you allowing to keep you from gathering with your church family for worship?

How has the CoVid pandemic impacted your devotion to worship? Do you think God gives us an "out" from gathering for worship because of it? Why or Why not?

DO

Obey the teaching of Scripture with your life.

When we gather for worship, we're not simply following some modern version of Christianity. We're following in the footsteps of Jesus and the early church in prioritizing the public worship of God together with God's family.

What adjustments can you make to your schedule to ensure you're committed to gathering with God's people?

Remember: IBC Manila gathers online every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. (Manila time). Find us at <https://www.facebook.com/IBCM.philippines> or www.ibcmanila.org.

DAY 3

A JESUS FOLLOWER

GATHERS IN SMALL GROUPS

READ

Read the following passages slowly and carefully.

Colossians 3:12-17

Mark 3:14-15

Acts 2:42-47

Romans 12:9-19

EXAMINE

Answer the following questions:

What does the Bible say?

What do these passages teach me about following Jesus?

APPLY

Apply the teaching of Scripture to your life.

Based on the previous Scriptures, how does God expect Christians to live with one another?

How closely does your faith community mirror the community described in the New Testament?

The next way Jesus followers should invest their time is in “Group Time”—that means devoting one percent of your month (or about seven hours) in community with people you care about and who care about you. That’s seven hours of doing life together.

This might look like a traditional Sunday School class. It may mean meeting with a smaller group of men or women. It might look like a group meeting in a home. Maybe it’s the group of people you’re working through this study with. The exact expression is less important than the intent. God has designed our lives as Jesus followers to happen in the context of community.

Throughout the New Testament, community is assumed. Jesus sought it with His disciples. Luke describes the early Christian community in the book of Acts. The New Testament letters were written to communities of faith across the known world. Revelation culminates in the community of God worshiping Him at His throne. The New Testament is all about Christian community, so you shouldn’t live without it. Whether you’ve found that community already or are still searching, find a group of Jesus followers, connect to them, and commit to them. There is no substitute for Christian community anywhere else in the world.

DO

Obey the teaching of Scripture with your life.

When will you meet with brothers and sisters in Christ for group time? If you’re already doing this, how has it impacted your faith in Jesus?

Contact us at info@ibcmanila.org to find out about an online small group you can join.

DAY 4

A JESUS FOLLOWER *SHARES LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY*

READ

Read the following passages slowly and carefully.

Acts 1:8

Matthew 5:14-18

Matthew 28:18-19

EXAMINE

Answer the following questions:

What does the Bible say?

What do these passages teach me about following Jesus?

APPLY

Apply the teaching of Scripture to your life.

The final way you must choose to invest your time to grow as a follower of Jesus is in “Go Time.” This is time spent going on mission with God locally and globally. This was the most obvious time modeled by Jesus. His entire life was spent on mission with God. You can begin to share in God’s mission right where you are, but you can’t fulfill your responsibility to fully engage in God’s mission without being intentional to tell the good news of Jesus globally.

Practically speaking, this means spending two percent of your year invested in “Go Time.” That means approximately seven days each year when you intentionally share in God’s mission through serving opportunities, going on trips, and leveraging your job, skills, and passions locally and/or globally.

As the life of Jesus is lived through us before other people, His light begins to bear on the world and beat back the darkness. As we saw earlier in this study, our mission to the world is big. Here are a couple of simple ways to connect to God’s mission in the world.

First, begin to pray about what’s breaking your heart in the world. Is it poverty? Fatherlessness? An unreached people group? These heartaches might be the means God is using to call you into His mission. Pray and ask for wisdom for where to get involved.

Next, reach out to a church leader and find out what existing partnerships your church has in your community and around the world. Consider the opportunities before you, and prayerfully consider where God would have you share His light in the world.

DO

Obey the teaching of Scripture with your life.

*Is there anywhere you would like to get plugged into sharing Christ’s light in the world?
What steps will you take?*

Who might you enlist to serve with you?

DAY 5

A JESUS FOLLOWER *LIVES UNBURDENED*

READ

Read the following passages slowly and carefully.

Matthew 11:28-30
2 Corinthians 11:3

EXAMINE

Answer the following questions:

What does the Bible say?

What does the passage teach me about following Jesus?

APPLY

Apply the teaching of Scripture to your life.

At the outset of this study, Vance shared that the verses we read today didn't make sense to him. Maybe they didn't make sense to you either. Hopefully, at the end of this journey you've been able to embrace the truth that following Jesus is all about relationships. That's the whole point of this last week.

What we're calling the "Five Percent Life" is simply a starting point. It's not the target. The target is to faithfully follow Jesus as defined by the three relationships we've identified with God, one another, and the world. Following these steps doesn't earn you favor before God. They're guidelines to help you, not burdens to weigh you down. The Five Percent Life isn't a list to check off but a walkway to help you journey in relationship with Jesus.

Following Jesus should not be a burden. It's meant to be comforting and life-giving. If you embrace the Five Percent Life as a starting point, the other 95 percent of your life will be changed forever as you abide in Christ, connect in community, and share in the mission of God's kingdom.

The ultimate goal is that as you invest and walk in the same relationships that Jesus did. You'll be unburdened as you capture the simplicity of living the life of a Jesus follower.

What have you learned over the last eight weeks about following Jesus?

How do you expect your life to be different as a result of the time you've spent in this study?

DO

Obey the teaching of Scripture with your life.

Who needs to hear (know) what you've learned? When will you share with them?