



International Baptist Church of Manila

LIFE OF A JESUS FOLLOWER • SESSION TWO: ABIDE—I'M IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD •
MARK 3:13-14 • 8/23/2020

MAIN POINT

Following Jesus is an invitation to pursue a relationship with God.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

In session one, you were introduced to the idea that following Jesus is all about relationships. How did this challenge the way you've thought about faith before? How did it encourage you?

Outside of your family, what is the first relationship you remember having?

As we're continuing to work through what it means to faithfully follow Jesus, we need to start where Jesus started—a relationship with God. A love relationship with the Father is the primary relationship in the life of a Jesus follower.

When did you first realize you needed a relationship with God?

In sessions 2 and 3, we'll be taking a closer look at our relationship with the Father. We'll begin where Jesus began—with an invitation to know God through a relationship with Him.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| WATCH THE VIDEO, "SESSION 2: ABIDE—I'M IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD".

| ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ MARK 3:13-14.

How does knowing that Jesus summons (or invites you) to follow Him change the way you think about your relationship with Him?

Jesus doesn't choose disciples by accident. He didn't haphazardly invite the first people he came across. Luke 6:12-19 tells us that Jesus devoted time to prayer before He summoned the disciples to Himself. The word "summoned" means to call or to invite. Jesus extends all His disciples a personal invitation to enjoy a relationship with God.

According to verse 14, why did Jesus invite us to follow Him? Why would Mark include that detail?

Jesus invited the disciples because He loved them. Jesus calls us to "be with Him. God wants to be in a relationship with you more than you want to be in a relationship with Him. All you need to do is accept the invitation Jesus offers. Once you accept the invitation, the primary calling on your life isn't to do something for Jesus. The primary call on your life is to be with Jesus.

Would you say you know Jesus in the way Vance described in this session?

When have you made your relationship with Jesus more about doing things for Him rather than being with Him?

The overall goal of your whole life becomes to know God. Your daily goal is simply to spend time with Him. As you spend time with God, you grow in intimacy with Him, and that growing intimacy with the Father spills out into every other area of life. However, we allow numerous barriers—schedules, appointments, apathy, laziness, busyness, or other excuses—to keep us from spending time with God. If spending time with God is the daily goal of our lives, we must make time for it.

If the objective of the Christian life is to know God and spend time with Him, why do we find it hard to carve out daily time with God?

What barriers in your schedule keep you from spending time alone with God? How could you overcome those barriers?

If you've already developed the habit of regularly spending time alone with God, share how that relationship with Jesus has overflowed into other areas of your life.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

What practical suggestions for spending time alone with God daily would you give someone who has never developed any kind of devotional life?

Would you say that your relationship with God is currently driven by outside help (i.e. your pastor or small group) or your own time alone with Him? Explain.

Was there a time in your life when you hungered for God more than you do now? If so, what changed, and what steps do you need to take today to begin to pursue God like that again?

PRAYER

Thank God for His invitation to follow Him in relationship. Thank Jesus for seeking a relationship with you. Ask the Spirit to help you identify barriers in your life that keep you from spending time with Him.

COMMENTARY

| MARK 3:13-14

The mountain here is not identified. Jesus spent the night praying (Lk 6:12). Summoned those He wanted seems to indicate more than just the 12 disciples (cp. Lk 6:13). The number 12 recalls the 12 tribes of Israel (cp. Mt 19:28; Lk 22:30). Two purpose clauses identify the apostles' functions. They were to be with Him and learn His message, then go out to preach.