Water of Life Community Church
LIFE OF A JESUS FOLLOWER
WEEK THREE: ABIDE—SPENDING TIME WITH GOD

1 CORINTHIANS 10:3; 2 PETER 1:3; JOHN 14:15,21; JAMES 4:6

ICE BREAKER

PRAYER

WORSHIP

INTRODUCTION

As we've been learning in these past few weeks, the primary call on our lives isn't to do something for Jesus but to be with Jesus. However, we need to be aware of the obstacles that get in the way of that relationship. Sometimes we don't spend time with Jesus because we allow our pride and self-sufficiency get in the way.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. WATCH THE VIDEO, "SESSION 3: ABIDE—I'M IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD".

a. Why is it so easy for even mature Jesus followers to confuse spiritual activity for spiritual maturity? When have you done this?

b. In this session, Vance shared some questions his mentor asked him: "Does a Christian want to sin? Does a Christian have to sin?" How would you have answered these questions before watching this session? How has your answer changed in light of what you heard?

2. READ 1 CORINTHIANS 10:13 AND 2 PETER 1:3.

a. What options does a Christian have when confronted with sin?

b. How are these verses an encouragement to us when temptation comes?

God doesn't just give us an example of bad choices and the encouragement to make wise choices; He gives us the ability to do so. If we are in Christ, we never have to give in to temptation. God is faithful and always gives us a way out of temptation that doesn't include sinning against Him. We need to recognize the seriousness of our choices and stand with God in order to withstand temptation.

3. READ JOHN 14:15,21.

a. How is our willingness to sin related to our love for God? How have you found this to be true in your own life?

b. How have pride and self-sufficiency kept you from pursuing God? Is this happening in your life right now?

This session is all about three questions that help us understand why we don't spend time with God. Does a Christian have to sin? No. Does a Christian want to sin? No. If we don't want to sin and we don't have to sin, why do we?

That answer is a little more complicated. We sin because we don't love God (John 14:15). We don't love God because we don't know God. We don't know God because we don't spend time with Him. We don't spend time with Him because we're prideful and self-sufficient people.

4. READ JAMES 4:6.

a. Why does our humility grow in proportion to our love for God?

b. How can we be committed to spending time with God without it becoming just another activity we do for God?

James 4:6 says. "But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, 'God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.'" We need to be people who humbly depend on God's grace. As we cultivate humility, we'll run to God freely in need. When we do this, according to John 14:23, God will disclose himself to us.

When we come to Jesus in humility, we'll be eager to spend time with Him, which grows our love for Him and decreases our desire to sin.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

GOING DEEPER

Subscribe to our e-devotionals by texting "edevotional" to 67076; or go to wolgroups.com and click on the eDevotional button for daily testimonies.

MEMORY VERSE

James 4:6 Contemporary English Version (CEV)

"In fact, God treats us with even greater kindness, just as the Scriptures say, 'God opposes everyone who is proud, but he is kind to everyone who is humble.'"

NOTES