

AMPLIFY our Weekly Message / 7.17.22

These **discussions** and recommended **spiritual practices** are designed to help **AMPLIFY** the impact of our Sunday morning teaching from God's Word. Choose the ones that fit best in your context.

Sunday Discussion

This is designed to be an extension of our Sunday worship service. Take a few minutes to have this conversation with those who watched the worship service with you. If you watched alone, give another friend who watched alone a call and have the conversation over the phone.

Share something that was said or sung in the worship service that resonated with you. Take a moment to pray with and for the person with whom you just shared.

Daily Discussion

These are intended for conversation around the dinner table, in the car, or before bed at night (designed for ages 7 and up). Start each conversation by reading the passage listed.

Monday: Read Matthew 4:1-4. Jesus had gone a long time without food. Was He entitled to some bread? What would have been wrong with Him eating some? When have you felt entitled to something that was not part of God's immediate plan for you?

Tuesday: Read Matthew 4:5-7. In what ways do you live in a place of asking God to serve you rather than putting yourself in a place to serve Him?

Wednesday: Read Matthew 4:8-10. In what ways are you tempted to pursue your own glory in your own way?

Thursday: Worship the Lord your God – flatten yourself before God in a posture of utter devotion and yieldedness and availability. How does that definition strike you?

Friday: Serve God only – make the entirety of your life an offering to God alone, utterly relinquishing all that you are and all that you have in His service. This describes Jesus. To what extent does it describe you?

Weekly Discussion

Spiritual friends are those who intentionally move into one another's life to spur one another on in spiritual growth for the Glory of God.

1. How has God encouraged, challenged or corrected you recently?
2. What's a way that you believe God has used you recently or wants to use you this week?

What follows are some spiritual practices that we believe could feed your soul and advance His Kingdom this week.

An Inward-Focused Spiritual Practice

Daily spiritual discipline – Spend some time reading Matthew 4:1-11. Consider this definition of worship: Flattening yourself before God in a posture of utter devotion and yieldedness and availability, and make the entirety of your life an offering to God alone, utterly relinquishing all that you are and all that you have in His service.

What might utter devotion to God look like in your life?

How can you yield to God this week?

What might availability to God look like for you this week?

What does offering your life to God play out?

How might you relinquish all that you are and all that you have in His service this week?

Consider how Jesus lived these things out.

Worship Him.

An Outward-Focused Spiritual Practice

Seek to love those God places in your path. Be intentional to share Jesus's love through word or deed with them.

With the love of Jesus in view, reach out to a neighbor or co-worker or someone in need.

Get involved with one of the Shalom of the City outreach initiatives:

<https://www.covenantepc.org/ministries/shalom-for-the-city/>

Get on our weekly prayer email (go to the "watch live" page and sign up for the prayer list) and start lifting these prayers and praises up to the Lord.