

Marinating in God's Word: Mark 1:35-39

As we seek to learn about prayer from Jesus, this week we turn to his actual prayer life. He makes intentional time to be alone with the Father. It may seem like an obvious practice to us today, but in true form, Jesus' actions call us to reexamine the way we understand and live out different aspects of our own lives like time, decision-making, and our relationship with God.

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

Jesus enjoyed time with his Father in Heaven, so he would naturally go off to be with him. How has our cultural prizing and commodification of "time" impacted the way we understand what it means to simply be with the Father in prayer? Are there aspects of our definition of "time" that needs to be changed so that we can truly enjoy being with our Father in prayer? Has Covid-19 impacted your understanding of "time" at all?

Jesus comes out of this time of prayer with a new direction for ministry. Are there other instances in Scripture that you can think of where people receive guidance or new direction in prayer? Is prayer a place for us to seek guidance, even for the day? What does this look like for you?

Look up the following passages: Jn 5:30; Jn 8:28-29; Jn. 14:6-7; Mt. 17:1-6 . Based on these Scriptures how would you describe Jesus' relationship with the Father? Now consider that this relationship was cultivated first and foremost in the context of prayer during his earthly ministry. How does this impact your understanding of what it means to have a relationship with God? What kind of new commitments could you and/or your life group make to explore cultivating time with God in prayer?