

“PROXIMITY”

A Personal or Small Group Experience

It does matter how “close” we are to things and to people and to God when it comes to whether or not we are benefitting from the relationship. Relational “proximity” is something we sense more than see although often times the “physical” proximity we have in relationships reflects and affects our “relational proximity”. Couples living in the same household will sometimes feel like “roommates” instead of lovers and will eventually (if nothing changes) separate physically.

Proximity is both reflective and affective in our relationship with Jesus. The story of Jesus and Mary as she anoints His feet with expensive perfume is a story of the power and importance of close PROXIMITY to Jesus. The great thing is that we can actively do things to improve proximity and therefore deeply enrich our lives. This is a non-negotiable reality for Jesus. He knows that proximity of our hearts to Him is where life comes from and is sustained.

In the passages below we get to step inside stories specifically written to bring the importance of “proximity to Jesus” in our lives. The first account is a little of Mary’s back story. Reading 2,3,4 accounts are thought by theologians to be about the same encounter told from three perspectives. I agree—don’t let the differences throw you. The 4th reading is about a separate instance that brings a whole new perspective to the question of “proximity to Jesus”!

Who does He allow near Him?

What does He consider important?

Why is proximity to Him important?

What trips you up in your battle to “stay close or get close” to Jesus?

What is Jesus inviting you to practically do as a response to Him and what He has revealed to you in this study?

Luke 10:38-42

John 12:1-11

Mark 14:1-11

Matthew 26:6-13

Luke 7:36-50

“I Am....”

The Resurrection and the Life

“Connecting With God” Weekly Guide

This booklet is a resource to help you “Connect with God” this week. He deeply desires ongoing personal connection with you. You are that important to Him.

This Page has some scripture verses for you to meditate on each day this week. Notice the helpful hints section – these are great things to consider when personally engaging with God through His Word.

The Center Pages contain the notes and outline for the message given on Sunday. The message is also available as an audio download from www.pointofgracechurch.org

The Back Page has a study written specifically for a small group of people (or an individual) to drill down deeper into a particular aspect of the week’s theme. Small groups can review memorable points of the week’s message and then work through the study concluding with a time of prayer.

Scripture & Meditation Guide - April 11-16

Helpful Hints:

- 1) Find a quiet place along with 15-20 minutes!
- 2) Focus on God for a few moments asking His Spirit to speak to your heart!
- 3) Listen to Him by reading a section of scripture then rereading it several times, dwelling on “words and phrases” which grab your heart’s attention.
Ask God, “What do You want me to hear?” “Why this word at this time?” “How are You inviting me to respond?”
- 4) Pray everything that is on your heart and mind as you are ready!
Worship Him, Bless Him, Thank Him, Ask Him, Trust Him

Monday: John 11:45-57

Tuesday: John 12:1-11

Wednesday: Luke 10:38-42

Thursday: Mark 14:1-11

Friday: Matthew 26:6-13

Saturday: Luke 7:36-50