

PART 3: PRIVATE DISCIPLINES

INTRODUCTION

You will never be closer to God than the level of your faith. But faith is more than mere belief. It's something we put into practice. That's why Jesus said, "Follow me." In this series we'll explore five catalysts God uses to build enduring, go-the distance faith in our lives.

KEY SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:6 Mark 1:35-37 Matthew 18:20 Luke 5:15-16 Matthew 6:31-33 1 Corinthians 12:27

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Is there something you currently enjoy doing that began as a discipline? If so, what made the difference?
- 2. Growing up, were you encouraged to develop habits that could be described as private spiritual disciplines (prayer, meditation, devotions, giving, fasting)? Did these habits carry into adulthood? Why or why not?
- 3. Read Luke 5:15-16. Pastor Will talked about the difference between being busy and being hurried. Jesus was busy, but never allowed his busyness to affect his relationship with his Father. Would you describe your life as busy? Or as hurried? What can you do to "un-hurry" your life?
- 4. Giving exercises our faith because it involves letting go of what we are most inclined to put our confidence in rather than God. Do you have more confidence in money or in God? Where is God at work around you that you could financially invest a percentage of your income in?
- 5. Will you accept the One Month Challenge: To pre-decide to give God the first minutes of your day, the first dollars of your pay, and the first day of your week?
- 6. Which of these three will be most difficult for you?
- 7. If you were to embrace this challenge for the next 30 days, what would you guess would be the main benefit? What would you want it to be? Is that worth doing the challenge?

Application Prayer: Lord, I commit to give You the first minutes of my day, the first dollars of my pay, and first day of my week. I place faith in you for your forgiveness and leadership.

30-Day Challenge