ENCOUNTER STUDY WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

DAY ONE: SOLITUDE

JOEL ENYART

Watch today's devotional video here!

LOOKING BACK

Think of a time when getting alone with God was meaningful for you—even if it was brief or your practice was inconsistent. What helped make that time possible, and what difference did you notice in your attitudes, relationships, or awareness of God?

IN EVERY SEASON

What does the pace of your current season allow—and what makes solitude difficult? Given your responsibilities, energy, and surroundings, what might a realistic rhythm of time alone with God look like? Consider a particular time and place that could work for you and spend time with God there this week.

LEARNING FROM JESUS

Let's read the following passages together:

> **Matthew 3:16-4:1**
> As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

> **John 5:19-20**
> Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What do you notice about Jesus' responsiveness to the Spirit and dependence on His Father?

2. As you consider His example, where in your own life do you need to slow down, listen, and seek the Father's direction?

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, give me a desire to wander with You in the quiet place so You can teach me to know Your heart and embrace Your mission as I take my place in Your Kingdom in this world. Let me grow deeper with You so I can stand tall for You when the enemy comes after me. May I grow closer to You as Your child and seek to make You known through my life. Amen.

DAY TWO: THE WORD (MEMORIZATION, MEDITATION)

LOGAN CHARLES

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MEDITATE ON THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURES

Hebrews 4:12
For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Psalm 119:114
You are my refuge and my shield;
I have put my hope in your word.

Joshua 1:8
Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it.

Deuteronomy 8:6
Observe the commands of the LORD your God, walking in obedience to him and revering him.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9
Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Is there a specific area of the flesh that the Lord is asking you to surrender to Him today? What would it look like to step back and trust the Holy Spirit's power in that area instead of your own strength?

2. What specific truth about His character, your identity, or His promises is God revealing to you through Scripture right now? Take a moment to pause, quiet your heart, and ask the Holy Spirit: "What are You trying to teach or show me today?"

3. Is there a particular verse or passage God is calling you to store up in your heart and commit to memory? How might carrying this Scripture with you throughout the week help you fight spiritual battles and walk daily in the Spirit?

CLOSING GUIDED PRAYER

Join me in praying these words as we close our time: Lord God, as I enter back into the reality of my daily life, help me to remember the beauty and power of your Word. As I step back into the joys and hardships of this day, would your Spirit bring to mind scriptures that can encourage, strengthen, and draw me back to you throughout the day? Grow in me a desire to know and experience your Word. As your Word says, teach me what it means to not live by bread alone—but by the very Word of God. Remind me that you sustain me in ways nothing else can. Help me this day to wield the sword of your Spirit, your Word, that I might be equipped to face life totally dependent on You. Amen.

DAY THREE: THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER

ANDRES CARIAS

Watch today's devotional video here!

MEDITATE ON MATTHEW 9

> This, then, is how you should pray:
> Our Father in heaven,
> hallowed be your name,
> your kingdom come,
> your will be done,
> on earth as it is in heaven.
> Give us today our daily bread.
> And forgive us our debts,
> as we also have forgiven our debtors.
> And lead us not into temptation,
> but deliver us from the evil one.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. When you pray, do you view God as a distant authority or as a present, loving Father? How does knowing you are His child change your approach to Him today?

2. Where are you currently feeling the pull of the flesh (e.g., anxiety, pride, temptation)? How can asking for "daily bread" and protection help you rely on the Spirit in that specific area?

3. Ask Jesus to teach you how to pray. What part of your daily routine is He inviting you to turn from a checklist item into an ongoing conversation with Him?

CLOSING GUIDED PRAYER

As we close, I want to lead us in a guided prayer using the prayer from Matthew's Gospel. I'm going to read one or two petitions at a time, then invite you to pray that over your heart.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name...

Thank Jesus for him being the reason why you can call God, "Father."

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven...

Where in your life do you desire to see the Kingdom of Heaven break through?

Give us today our daily bread...

What provision do you need in this moment?

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors...

What can you confess to the Lord?

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one...

What aspect of the flesh needs to be put to death in your life?

DAY FOUR: FASTING

CHRISTY ENYART

Watch today's devotional video here!

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Christy mentioned several powerful examples of fasting throughout Scripture. Read Daniel's prayer of repentance during his time of fasting in Daniel 9:15-23.

    a. How does his prayer inspire prayers of repentance in your own life?

    b. How does God's response to Daniel's prayer and fasting encourage you?

2. When you consider spiritual disciplines like fasting, do you view them as an obligation to impress others, or as a private, intimate invitation to draw closer to the Father? How can you shift your motive toward seeking Him in secret?

3. When was the last time you intentionally strengthened your spiritual resolve? When was the last time you worked out that spiritual muscle that fights against your flesh? When was the last time you practiced remaining committed to the Lord while experiencing a strong physical stress response?

CLOSING GUIDED PRAYER

Father, I desire to worship you with my whole life. My entire being belongs to You, my body, my will, and my heart. Thank you for empowering me through your Holy Spirit to fight the battles in my life. I ask that You help me put to death my flesh so that I can live more and more in the power of the Spirit. You are my God, my provider, my protector, and my strength. Teach me to live a life that brings You glory.