Diving Deeper into Discipleship

February 7, 2021 | Pastor Pete Fowler

Open Invitation: Choosing Wisely

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- Ask God to empower, encourage, and equip the leaders of this church—and the global Church—with wisdom, boldness, discernment, and compassion.
- Do you struggle celebrating the diversity of persons that God calls into discipleship and/or leadership? Why or why not?
- Confess to God the way(s) you feel you've failed to follow well, knowing that Jesus is always extending forgiveness to us.
- Would those who observe your life try to explain what they see with the realization that you are someone who has "been with Jesus?"

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **Ephesians 1:15-23** | Using this passage as a template, in what specific ways can you pray for the leaders of the church, locally, and around the world?
- **John 20:19-23** | When Jesus reunites with His fearful disciples, is this the kind of reunion you would expect? Why or why not?
- **Acts 4:1-22** | In this story of boldness in the face of threat and persecution, what most stands out to you about Peter and John?

Self-Care Discipline

February Discipline: Solitude & Silence

Starting Small (*Celebration of Discipline p.106*)

- The discipline of silence and solitude are interwoven into the DNA of a Christian person. We rely on them like one relies on food or water. Perhaps this is why so many folks feel spiritually malnourished or dehydrated because they are not opening themselves up to silence and solitude. Solitude is not simply the absence of noise but the absence of distraction. Whenever we are able to sit and rest in the presence of God, our eyes are opened in ways that we wouldn't have imagined before.
- Open yourself up to starting small. Engaging in silence can be an intimidating thing. We often have to come face to face with ourselves and our struggles in the silence. Distraction is much easier. This week, don't feel like you need to go on some grand silent retreat or hideout in a cave for the weekend. Find little pockets throughout your day to spend just a few moments focused in the quiet. This could be as you sip your morning coffee, or while you drive to and from work with the radio off. There are numerous ways to engage in solitude. These tiny little moments can help reorient your life like a compass needle. They are little moments that help all of us to be genuinely present wherever we are.

Notes