



## rGroup Guide

Pastor Miles McPherson | December 8, 2019

### *Recite the Do Something Disciple Prayer*

“As a Do Something Disciple, I am in a disciplined pursuit for the heart of The Father, a heart that is being perfected in love for God and people.

#### **Father give me a heart that:**

- Desperately seeks face-to-face intimacy with You.
- Faithfully avoids that which displeases You.
- Humbly embraces a Kingdom Mindset.
- Values making disciples that make disciples.

#### **Jesus, create in me a heart that:**

- Values being guided by the Word of God.
- Gratefully grows in generosity.
- Nurtures a burden for lost people.
- Demonstrates a commitment to a Spirit-filled expression of my gifts.

#### **Holy Spirit develop a heart in me that:**

- Gracefully gives and receives forgiveness.
- Passionately worships God.
- Is dependent on the power of prayer.
- Serves with Humility.

"Father, with Christlikeness as my goal and the Holy Spirit as my Guide, knit my heart with Yours. Fill my heart with Your passions, motivations, and desires. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

### **Sermon Application from Sunday's Message:**

On Sunday 12/8, Pastor Miles kicked off his sermon series on “Worthy”. The title of this week’s message was “What is God worthy of?” In the message, Pastor Miles helped us to focus on the fact that God is worthy of our BEST. God is worthy that we not look BACK. Finally, He is worthy that we pursue spiritual RESULTS.

**Take time to read through the following materials in your rGroup and discuss the questions provided.**

- Read 1 Thessalonians 2:10-12 – In this chapter Paul is reminding the Thessalonians how he and his fellow workers conducted themselves while in Thessalonica. Paul’s goal is to reassure the church of his commitment to them despite his unexpected and prolonged absence from Thessalonica. For this section of scripture Paul is reminding the Thessalonians that he and his fellow missionaries ministered to them with gentleness and love.<sup>1</sup>
  - Verse 12 says “so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.” In this verse the word worthy is used it can also mean “deserving” in Greek. As a group go around and share why God is “worthy or deserving” of our time, worship, talent, treasure, and more?
  - Discuss ways in which we can express how God is “worthy or deserving” in our lives.
- Read Luke 9:62 – In this section of scripture Jesus is traveling towards Jerusalem and there are people who are responding in various ways to His call for discipleship. Jesus is emphasizing that his followers must be willing to face hardships and make sacrifices. Followers of Jesus must have a singular focus on the work of God’s kingdom.<sup>2</sup>
  - In verse 62 it uses two words “looking back”. This can be related to starting something and then hesitating or having second thoughts about continuing. What does it mean to truly commit to our relationship with Jesus? When have you felt challenges in committing your life to Jesus? Were you able to push through those challenges or did you stumble or turn away?
- Read Matthew 3:7-9 – In this section of scripture we see that the Pharisees and Sadducees, two Jews religious groups, wanted to be baptized by John the Baptist. The Pharisees and Sadducees probably felt that they were “worthy” enough to be baptized. Yet, John does not baptize them and instead calls them a “brood of vipers”.<sup>3</sup>
  - In verse 8 we see that John directs the Pharisees and Sadducees to “bear fruit in keeping with repentance;”. The fruit that they are to bear could be described as “goodness, righteousness, and truth”.
    - Are you bearing goodness, righteousness, and truth in your life? As you live out your faith in Jesus do others see the good “fruit” in your life?
    - If you have never accepted Jesus as your Lord and savior you will not be able to bear good “fruit”. Or if you are a believer in Jesus and you have not committed your life to Him, you are probably not bearing good fruit.

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<sup>1</sup> Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). *Faithlife Study Bible* (1 Th 2:1–12). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

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**Take the rest of your group time to pray and respond by believing in and committing to follow Jesus so that you can be a bearer of good “fruit”.**

**Walk with God.** Paul encouraged believers to properly walk with God. (1 Thess. 2:10). When their relationship with God was proper, “Abraham and Isaac [also] *walked* with God.” (Gen. 48:15.) After receiving God’s blessing, Abraham again walked with God throughout the Promised Land and built an altar to symbolize his fellowship with Him. (Gen. 13:17-18.) God later gave Abraham two directives when He affirmed His Covenant with Him. He was to “[w]alk before Me, and be blameless.” (Gen. 17:1(b).) Both Enoch and Noah also “walked with God.” (Gen. 5:22, 24; 6:9.) Before his fall, Adam also walked with God. This suggested not just piety, but also fellowship. Sin broke this fellowship between God and Adam’s descendants. Yet, through Christ’s blood, you too can “walk” with Him in fellowship. (Dt. 5:33; 8:6.) Like Abraham, Isaac and Israel, you too are called to seek fellowship with Jesus: “God is faithful, through whom *you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*” (1 Cor. 1:9.) In the book of Revelation, Jesus called upon Church members to find their calling of fellowship with Him: “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, *I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.*” (Rev. 3:20). Where is your walk with Jesus in need of readjustment?

**Walk in fellowship with God by giving Him your best.** Like Abraham, Isaac, and Israel you are also called to walk in fellowship with God. This includes using His Spiritual gifts for His Kingdom. There are seven ways to walk in fellowship with God. First, this requires that you walk by faith in Christ and not by sight. (2 Cor. 5:7; Col. 2:6; Gal. 5:16.) Second, this requires that you trust the Lord with all your heart as opposed to leaning upon your own understanding. (Prov. 3:5-6.) Third, this requires that you walk in obedience as God commands you. (Dt. 5:33; Zech. 3:7; Job 22:21.) Fourth, this requires that you read the Word and pray regularly so that the Holy Spirit may be a lamp to your feet and guide your path. (Ps. 119:105; Jo. 14:26.) Fifth, this requires that you walk with purity as a “living sacrifice” and a “new creation” for Him. (Ro. 12:1-2; Ps. 119:133; Jam. 4:8; Ro. 13:13; 2 Cor. 5:17.) Sixth, this requires that you perform the “good works” of love, unity, kindness, justice, mercy and encouragement that God has prepared in advance for you. (Eph. 2:10; 1 Jo. 4:8; Micah 6:8; Amos 3:3) Finally, when your walk fails you, repent of your sins so that He may cleanse you of your sins. (1 Jo. 1:9.) If you are not walking in fellowship with Him, pray for the Spirit to guide you. Where are you failing to give Him the best of your time, talent and treasure?

**Next Steps:**

- Toys for Joy – Give, Volunteer, - December 14<sup>th</sup> - <https://www.toys-for-joy.org>

**Monthly Memory Verse: James 2:20** “*But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?*”

**This Week's Bible Readings:**

1 Timothy: <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/1-timothy/>

2 Timothy: <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/2-timothy/>

Titus: <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/titus/>

Philemon: <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/philemon/>

Hebrews: <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/hebrews/>