



rGroup Guide

Pastor Greg Hendricks | December 1, 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 Questions from Sunday's Message:

On Sunday 12/1, Campus Pastor Greg Hendricks, from our East County Campus, shared a message of how we need to continue to walk with Jesus despite the pain that we may be feeling. He let us know that we need to do three things regarding our relationship with God. 1) Draw Near to Him, 2) Invite Him In, 3) Break Bread with God and Others.

Finding Jesus During Your Road to Emmaus

Jesus concealed His divine glory in the form of a lowly man. Jesus hid His divine form by becoming a lowly man. Because of sin, the world did not recognize Jesus' divine nature. Nor did the world recognize Him as their Messiah: "He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and *the world did not know Him.*" (Jo. 1:10). Even on the road to Emmaus, His disciples did not recognize Him: "But *their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him.*" (Lk. 14:16). At the Sea of Galilee, His disciples also did not recognize Him: "But when the day was now breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet *the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.*" (Jo. 21:4). Jesus hid His divine identity to test people to see if they would believe in faith in Him. He does not want followers who walk by sight and only believe in what can be proven to them. Jesus knows that these kinds of believers will quickly abandon Him in times of trouble.

Ours sins can spiritually blind from seeing Jesus. The believers on the road to Emmaus were spiritually blind to Jesus' presence. Throughout the Bible, many suffered a physical blindness so that God could show them that they had become spiritually blind inside. For example, Jesus put scales over Paul's eyes to show him that he had become spiritually blind (Acts 9:18). In Paul's case, he was persecuting God's people and could not even see the errors of his ways until Jesus blinded him. Throughout the Old Testament, God also imposed physical blindness to show believers when they suffered from blindness on the inside: "Now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and *you will be blind and not see the sun for a time.*" And immediately a mist and a darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking those who would lead him by the hand." (Acts 13:11). "The Lord will smite you with madness *and with blindness* and with bewilderment of heart; and you will grope at noon, as the blind man gropes in darkness, and you will not prosper in your ways; but you shall only be oppressed and robbed continually, with none to save you." (Dt. 28:27-29; Ex. 10:21). "We grope along the wall like blind men, we grope like those who have no eyes; we stumble at midday as in the twilight, . . ." (Is. 59:10(a)). "By day they meet with darkness, and grope at noon as in the night." (Job 5:14; 12:25; 38:15). "They wandered, blind, in the streets; . ." (Lam. 4:14(a); Amos 8:9). "The way of the wicked is like darkness; they do not know over what they stumble." (Prov. 4:19). A person is blind to their sins when they can no longer see their sins or the light that Jesus offers.

Pastor Greg Hendricks revealed three important lessons for seeing Jesus.

1). Draw near to Jesus. When you are feeling pain, drawing near to Jesus is the first step in seeing Him: "The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth." (Ps. 145:18). Drawing near includes calling out to Jesus when you are in pain: "For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as is the LORD our God whenever we call on Him?" (Dt. 4:7). Drawing near also includes being humble: "The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." (Ps. 34:18). "For thus says the high and exalted One who lives forever, whose name is Holy, 'I dwell on a high and holy place, and also with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.'" (Is. 57:15). Are you humbly calling out to Jesus for help when you feel pain? If you are not in pain, how are you helping others in need of His help?

2) Invite God in by letting Jesus purify your heart. You are then called upon to invite God in by purifying your heart. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." (Matt.

5:8). “With the pure You show Yourself pure, And with the perverted You show Yourself astute.” (2 Sam. 22:27). “A Psalm of Asaph. Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart!” (Ps. 73:1). This requires that you repent of your sin and ask Jesus to purify your heart: “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.” (Ps. 51:10). “and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith.” (Acts 15:9). “And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.” (1 Jo. 3:3). Have you invited Jesus in to purify your heart by repenting of your sins?

3) Be in fellowship with both Jesus and His Church. Finally, seeking God requires that you dine in fellowship with both Jesus and the Body of Christ.

- Jesus’ offer to “dine” with believers. Jesus calls you into His fellowship: “God is faithful, through whom *you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*” (1 Cor. 1:9). He called the disciples into fellowship by dining with them: “When He had reclined at the table with them, He took the bread and blessed it, and breaking it, He began giving it to them.” (Lk. 24:30). He also offers to believers that they can enjoy the spiritual intimacy with Him. When speaking to the believers in the Church of Laodicea, He made an intriguing invitation to the believers that they could form an even deeper relationship with Him: “Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. 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. 3:19-22). Many Christians quote part of verse 20 for the proposition that Jesus will come into the heart of a non-believer if he or she will open his or her heart to Him. But this message was directed to existing believers at the Church of Laodicea. Moreover, focusing only on the knock on the door fails to address Jesus’ specific offer to “dine” with the believers. In that time, to dine with someone was an intimate sign of a deep friendship. Jesus’ invitation is for a believer to find the peace that surpasses all understanding through His fellowship. If you are feeling pain, being saved is not enough. You must actively seek out His fellowship the same way you might seek out the friendship of a close friend. Are actively seeking Jesus’ fellowship? If you have a friend in pain, are you encouraging them to seek out His fellowship?
- Jesus also uses believers to comfort those in pain. God also uses others believers to comfort you when you are feeling sad or in pain: “Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:46-47). This requires that you stay connected in a small group of believers: “not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.” (Heb. 10:25). Within a small group, believers are called upon to comfort one another: “Therefore comfort one another with these words.” (1 Thess. 4:18). Are you laying your burdens out before a close group of believers? Are you offering encouragement and support to a fellow believer in need?

Next Steps:

- **Take up the challenge - Text give to 52525 or visit <https://www.sdrock.com/give/>**
- **Toys for Joy – Give, Volunteer, - December 14th - <https://www.toys-for-joy.org>**

Monthly Memory Verse: James 2:18-20 *But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe – and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?*

This Week’s Bible Readings:

Galatians 1-6

Ephesians 1-6

Philippians 1-4

Colossians 1-4

1 Thessalonians 1-5

2 Thessalonians 1-3