

# LEVERAGE YOUR LIFE



## DEEPEN DEVOTION

**BIG IDEA:** We will never rightly seek first the kingdom until daily we seek first the King.

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 22 and Sunday, April 26, 2026

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 11:28-30; Mark 3:13-14; Acts 6:1-4

## CONNECT

**Who in your life has been an example of devotion to a person or an idea? What have they taught you?** What do you think people in your life would say you are devoted to? Why is that?

## WATCH THE VIDEO

What stood out to you from today's video teaching?

## SCRIPTURE

### **Matthew 11:28-30 (CSB)**

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

### **Mark 3:13-14 (CSB)**

<sup>13</sup> Jesus went up the mountain and summoned those he wanted, and they came to him. <sup>14</sup> He appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, to be with him, to send them out to preach...

### **Acts 6:1-4 (CSB)**

In those days, as the disciples were increasing in number, there arose a complaint by the Hellenistic Jews against the Hebraic Jews that their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution. <sup>2</sup> The Twelve summoned the whole company of the disciples and said, "It would not be right for us to give up preaching the word of God to wait on tables. <sup>3</sup> Brothers and sisters, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and wisdom, whom we can appoint to this duty. <sup>4</sup> But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

## DISCUSSION

### READ Matthew 11:28-30

What parts of your spiritual life feel draining or exhausting at times? Why do you think this is so? Did you relate to Vance in his trying to measure up?

Recall this quote from Henry Blackaby from *Experiencing God*, "We are so activity oriented that we assume we were saved for a task to perform rather than for a relationship to enjoy." When have you felt especially connected to Jesus or especially aware of His presence or love for you?

What is the danger in equating spiritual activity with spiritual maturity? What is the difference?

### READ Mark 3:13-14 & Acts 6:1-4

What was the primary purpose of these early followers of Jesus? Is that a priority in *your* life?

If we must seek first the *King* to rightly seek first the *kingdom*, how can you deepen your devotion through prayer and the Word each day? What may you need to give up to better prioritize prayer and the Word?

Think of Vance's airplane analogy. Christians also need two wings to fly – prayer and the Word – both individually and corporately. How can our group give priority to prayer and the Word when we gather and how can we encourage one another to stay in the Word throughout the week?

## PRAYER RESPONSE

When we seek God in prayer, He moves in power. Jesus gives rest to the weary. In the video Vance shared after reading Matthew 11:28-30 three words to sum up our Christian walk should be *rest, easy* and *light*. Yet, at one time Vance's three words were *work, hard* and *heavy*.

Turn to your neighbor and take a minute to share what 3 words you would use to sum up your Christian walk right now. Encourage one another to release any burdens to Jesus through prayer and Scripture as we deepen our devotion to Jesus and each other.

After a few minutes have the prayer leader or your LifeGroup leader close in prayer by praying Matthew 11:28-30 over the group. "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

*You will deepen your devotion to Christ when you talk with Him throughout the day. Each day. Share yourself with Him. Ask for advice. Ask for wisdom. Listen for His voice and believe He will speak. In other words, spend time with Jesus not as a task to perform but as a Person to love.*