

Transition:

The life of Jesus was full of healing the sick, casting out demons, taking care of the poor, and doing many miracles. Despite all this, he knew the most important thing he needed to do was spend time with the Father. Today, we would say, Jesus is too “busy” in His time of ministry in this chapter. But after feeding the 5,000, Scripture says it was evening. And when Jesus walked on water, it was in the fourth watch of the night (3AM). If you had had a long night of ministry and knew an early morning of ministry and teaching was coming, what would you do?

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus wanted to spend time with His father?
2. Do you think it was important for Jesus to be on a mountain alone? Could he not spend time with the Father while with His disciples in the boat?

Fundamental:

Abiding - Abiding is spending time with Jesus. When we are able to spend time with Him, it reflects in our lives, we start to resemble more of his character and less of our flesh, and we begin to bear much fruit. In spending time with Jesus, we start to know more of who He is. John 17:3 says that Eternal Life is to know Him, and we can only know Jesus if we spend time with Him. Many of us think we know Jesus, but we don't. We just know OF Him. We make time for those we love.

1. John 15:1 says “I am the vine, you are the branches, and my father is the vinedresser.” What does this mean for our lives?
2. John 15:5 says “apart from me you can do nothing.” Obviously we can do a lot apart from Jesus – so what does He mean by “nothing?”
3. John 15:7 says “If you abide...ask whatever you wish, and it will be done...” How does spending time with Jesus affect our prayer life?

Homework/Challenge:

1. Ask your small group leader how they spend their abiding time during the week - which may include prayer, worship, reading, solitude, & meditating.
2. Please read Matthew 15 in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

Ask each person in your small group on a scale of 1-10 where their abiding time is at. Tell them you will follow up with them in your next one-on-one to see if they have improved.

Prayer:

Pray that the Lord gives you more of a desire than ever to be with Him and hunger after righteousness.

Extras:

Abide in Christ by Andrew Murray