



Small Group Study Guide

THE WALK FIVE ESSENTIAL PRACTICES OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

February 28, 2021
“Study:
A Living Word”

OPENING PRAYER

O Gracious God, thank you for walking with us as we journey through Lent. Some of our days this season have seemed gray and dreary, but we thank you, that you constantly ask us to see the world through your eyes. Teach our hearts to listen for you, as you are often revealing Yourself through nature, art, and human experience, as well as through your Scripture. We thank you most of all that you have revealed yourself in Jesus Christ, our Shepherd, who continues to call each of us by name. Help us to treasure the learning and growing that we still need to do as we walk with you. In your Son's name we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES:

Psalm 119:105 (NRSV)

*Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.*

2 Timothy 3:14-15 (NRSV)

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

INTRODUCTION

During Lent, we are focusing on the five essential practices of the Christian life highlighted in Adam Hamilton's book, *The Walk*: worship, study, serve, give and share. This week, we explored "study," learning and growing from the way God is revealed in nature, art, and life, as well as in the Scripture. Most importantly, God has been revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. "Study" is a practice of training ourselves to listen for God's voice so we can better follow our Good Shepherd.

QUESTIONS

- 1) Read Luke 10:38-42
"Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things," Jesus says. Martha is distracted by her role as hostess. We are told that Mary has "chosen the better part," as she sits at Jesus's feet to listen. Jesus says "only one thing" is necessary or *The Message* words it "one thing only is essential." What is worrying or distracting you today? What do you think is the one essential thing you need to hear?
- 2) We talk about how God is revealed by "General Revelation," through nature, art, and human experience. Can you think of a time that God was revealed to you through nature? An artwork, work of music or TV/movie? Through someone else's story? Describe that experience to the group.
- 3) We describe God's direct action to reach us through the Holy Spirit and Scripture as "Special Revelation." Has there been a verse or passage of scripture that came to mind at just the moment you needed it? Has the Holy Spirit revealed something to you that changed you? Describe that time for the group.
- 4) Read Psalm 119:11-12, 103-105
This Psalm offers a beautiful prayer model that can prepare us to "hear" and treasure God's word as we encounter it. Have you ever tried reading a passage of scripture, slowly, three times through to see what words or phrases speak to you? We call this method "Lectio Divina" or "divine reading," and there are several ways to do it. Open to Psalm 23, and try this way of reading with your group. What is your experience of sharing in this time together?
- 5) We believe that God's most important revelation was through the person of Jesus Christ. Discuss how each of you might draw closer to Jesus during this Lent.

FINAL APPLICATION

Don't be afraid to experiment with different ways to study the Scripture in order to find a way that works for you. Over the remaining weeks of Lent, choose one of the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John) to read the entire way through.