



DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Deep – Exploring God’s Word: Dive Like Jesus

Ryan Leak

October 8, 2017

Main Idea – God created us to have a close relationship with Him. In order to go deeper into the things of God, we need to make time in our daily schedules to communicate with Him.

Cluttered messes

- Most of us have places in our homes that are filled with junk. This happens because we have a tendency to hoard, and gradually collect things.
- It might be okay for us to have a few cluttered rooms in our houses, but it is not okay if other things in our lives are cluttered messes.
- For example, it is not okay if our personal relationships, our finances, or our daily schedules are messy.
- God wants to reveal deeper things to each of us that cannot happen if we are not effectively organizing our lives. God will communicate wisdom and insights to us – but we have to be mature in managing our schedules.
- **1 Corinthians 2: 6-7 – However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory,**

Jesus had a personal schedule

- **Mark 1:35 (NIV)- Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.**
- Jesus got up early in the morning to pray because he had a busy schedule ahead of him each day. He knew alone time with his Father was essential for being effective in the day ahead.
- We have been taught it is important to tithe our finances to God – to give back to God *the first* 10% of our financial increase. This is essential for a relationship with Him. It is also essential we devote an important part of our time to be alone with God; possibly the first portion of each day as did Jesus.
- We all have time for personal time with God. It is a matter of intentionally scheduling this time.

Things that provide added value to our lives

- Most of us spend our days full of different activities. Many of those things do not add value to our lives. Some of them are addictive behaviors that do not

help us become better people, but are actually harmful.

- Author and motivational speaker Jim Rohn said, **“If you really want to do something, you’ll find a way. If you don’t, you’ll find an excuse.”**
- Before making important decisions we should spend significant time alone with God. The Bible tells us Jesus prayed all night before making the important decisions about choosing the twelve men who would become the apostles. **Luke 6: 12-13 (NLT) - One day soon afterward Jesus went up on a mountain to pray, and he prayed to God all night. At daybreak he called together all of his disciples and chose twelve of them to be apostles.**
- Considering the important things God has chosen ahead of time for you to do, what kind of time are you spending with Him one-on-one?

A productive life

- We cannot do anything productive apart from God. **John 15: 4-5 (ESV) – Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.**
- Our success in life is directly correlated to spending time with him as the day begins, and then consciously communicating with Him as we go through the day.
- God doesn’t want you to do something great for Him without Him.
- The reason we were created was to have communion with Him; to do things with Him.

Knowing, and being known by, Jesus

- There will be people Jesus says he knows, and people he will say he doesn’t know. **Matthew 7: 21-23 (NIV) – Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’**
- We want to be among those whom he says he knows.
- Three easy ways each day to spend time with God: 1.) Read & study your Bible 2.) Pray 3.) Worship

Create a “Don’t Do List”

- Perhaps you have a “To Do List” for each day. It might be we also need to **create a “Don’t Do List” for each day.** Each day eliminate things from your daily activities that will not add value to your life.

- Then, in order to go deeper with God, intentionally schedule the time it takes to develop an important personal relationship with Him.
- Look for opportunities in the middle of your day – 10 to 15 minutes here and there – to spend time alone with Him.
- Successfully going deep with Jesus is not about how well you perform, but how well you know Him.

Reflective Questions for The Deep – Exploring God’s Word: Dive Like Jesus

- 1. Think of a person with whom you had a close relationship. What were the things that enabled that relationship to be close? If you are no longer close to that person, what happened to weaken the relationship?**
- 2. Jesus spent the first part of his busy days praying. What is the value of spending a few minutes alone with God at the start of each day?**
- 3. How does this help with our productivity?**
- 4. How might this help in getting to better know God?**
- 5. What are things you could likely spend time with today that would not add value to your life? How could you arrange your schedule to replace them with alone time with God?**