

Radical Minimum Standard

May 18 | Group Guide

Introduction and questions (10 minutes).

On Sunday, we finished our latest sermon series called Radical Minimum Standard, focusing on becoming and making disciples of Jesus. Throughout this series, we have looked at what Jesus and other New Testament writers taught about the life of discipleship to Jesus. This past week, Dan shared about cultivating a *lifestyle* of discipleship.

- Who is someone you know that is really successful at something (e.g. a hobby, a craft, in business, at sports, etc.). What lifestyle choices do you think have contributed to them excelling in that area?
- Think now of your own life. Look at your lifestyle choices. If someone were to come from the outside and look at your lifestyle, and if they were to guess what you are an expert in, what kinds of things do you think they would guess?

Is “connecting people to Jesus?” one of those things? Is “loving God” what they’d guess you are an expert in? What about “loving people?” What about “making disciples?”

Why do you think this is or is not the case?

Read Scripture and discuss (25 minutes).

Read John 14:12 and Luke 6:40.

- In his sermon, Dan mentioned how “A lifestyle of discipleship always entails the dual focus of renouncing the flesh and pursuing the Spirit.” How do you see this exemplified in the life of Christ?
- What does it mean to “renounce the flesh?” To “pursue the Spirit?” What does this look like in your own life?
- In his sermon, Dan mentioned seven practices of “renouncing the flesh” - sabbath, silence, fasting, simplicity, secrecy, sacrifice, confession. Which of these have you experienced or tried? When? How has that confronted your flesh? Explain.
- In his sermon, Dan also mentioned seven practices of “pursuing the Spirit” - prayer, Scripture, solitude, worship, fellowship, thanksgiving, service. Which of these have you experienced or tried? When? How have these helped you to pursue the Spirit? Explain.
- Read Romans 8:13. Are there any areas in which your flesh is really holding you back as of late? Which of these practices might help you in that? Is there any way in which you need to *intentionally* pursue the Spirit right now? How might one of these practices help you do just that?

Weekly reflection discussion (10 minutes)

Throughout our Radical Minimum Standard series, we are providing a weekly reflection in which you are invited to take a close look at how Jesus interacted with His disciples. This week's reflection passage is John 13:1-38.

If people in your group engaged with the Week 4 Reflection, you are encouraged to listen to each other's noticings by asking the following questions:

- What did you notice in the text?
- What tension or contrast did you experience between the picture of discipleship in this passage and your own life?
- Was there an invitation to implement in your life?

Finish with prayer requests and pray for one another (10 minutes).

Break into groups of 3-4 and share with that smaller group any prayer requests that you may have. Then, take turns praying for one another, over the things that each person shared.