

Living Hope Alliance Church Group Discussion Guide

For the week of May 8, 2016

Sermon Discussion Time

- 1.) Sloth can take two forms: laziness or misdirected busyness. Which one do you believe reflects you more?

- 2.) So often we are busy in so many areas of our lives that we feel we don't have time for God or just feel too tired to invest in our relationship with him. Have you ever had a time when being spiritually active (reading the Bible, praying, serving others) has felt more tiring than life-giving?

Follow up Question: Why does our spiritual activity seem to be the first thing to get put by the wayside?

Read or have someone else read Matthew 11:28-30

- 3.) The image of the yoke can bring about different responses in different people. Does this passage comfort you? Does it sound like work? Why?

Follow up Question: If this sounds like work, what are your concerns if you come to Jesus in this way, to be yoked to Him? What do you think He's asking of you with these verses?

Read or have someone else read Mark 4:3-20

- 4.) Where do you see yourself in this parable of the sower? Is there something in your life that prevents you from having deep spiritual roots?

- 5.) Take a moment and examine areas in your life where your busyness may be misdirected. Are there steps you can take this week to begin to make changes in how you direct your energy?

Going Deeper

- 1.) Often on the outside we seem busy for God but our personal relationship with him suffers. Or we may have a growing personal relationship with God but we haven't made our faith active in serving Him. Does one of these describe your situation? What do you wish were different in either your personal relationship with God or your activity for Him?
- 2.) Of the four focussing habits (reading God's word, practicing solitude and listening, participating in community, and placing ourselves in 'uncomfortable' places for God) which one holds most promise for you? How can we incorporate that spiritual practice into our lives this week?