

Stuck: Get Back In the Game

Stuck In a Rut

September 24, 2023

Notes

Questions for Personal Reflection and Group Discussion

1. Read Luke 19:11-27 and Matthew 25:14-30.

Carefully read each parable. Make notes about both the similarities and the differences between them.

Who is Jesus talking to in each of these passages? (For the Matthew passage see Matt. 24:3). How do the differences in the parables connect to the differences in audience?

What resources, abilities, or gifts have been entrusted to you by your Master?

How well are you doing at making good use of what has been given to you?

In what areas of your discipleship do you need to invest a bit more? What will it look like for you to do that?

What might get in the way of you moving forward in this area? What could you do to help ensure your forward progress isn't thwarted?

2. Read Psalm 90:12.

Are you being intentional to make the most of your time?

If you knew you only had one year left before you meet Jesus face-to-face, is there anything you would change about the way you manage all that He has given you? What would you do differently?

3. Read Matthew 6:33.

Think through your daily schedule. What does it reveal about what is most important to you?

Do you need to make any adjustments to your priorities? What needs to increase in importance? What needs to decrease?

Is there any area where you feel stuck? What are you going to do about it and when will you take that step?

Exploring Christ

- Investigating but undecided about the claims of Christianity.
- Struggling mostly with belief in Christ, not with belief in God.
- Attending but not involved in church.
- Possibly a long-time churchgoer.
- Asking questions and taking steps to find answers.

Growing in Christ

- Needs help taking personal responsibility for all facets of spiritual and emotional health and development.
- Faith begins to take root through significant testing with increasing confidence in and surrender to Jesus Christ.
- Exploring intimacy with Jesus through basic spiritual exercises, including, but not limited to: occasional Bible reading/reflection, prayer, corporate worship, occasional service.
- Beginning to understand and live out basic biblical theology.
- Developing the joy of giving, demonstrated in occasional offering and service.
- Beginning to understand the character of Jesus.
- Learning the importance of Christian community primarily through weekend church attendance.
- Learning to share their faith story with others, excited by occasional opportunities to serve those in need.

Close to Christ

- Learning to take personal responsibility for all facets of spiritual and emotional health and development.
- Responding in faith through significant testing with increasing confidence in and surrender to Jesus Christ.
- Developing intimacy with Jesus through an increasing variety of spiritual exercises, including, but not limited to: regular Bible reading/reflection, prayer, occasional Bible study, corporate & personal worship, active church membership, consistent service.
- Understands, can explain, and live out basic biblical theology while exploring advanced biblical theology.
- Developing an understanding of stewardship, demonstrated in consistent tithing and service.
- Learning to model the character of Jesus, beginning to demonstrate the Fruit of the Spirit.
- Beginning to understand and live in deeper authentic Christian community.
- Looking for opportunities to share their faith story, and actively seeking opportunities to serve those in need, in their community and around the world.

Christ-Centered

- Takes personal responsibility for all facets of spiritual and emotional health and development.
- Faith proven over time and thru significant testing with increasing confidence in and surrender to Jesus Christ.
- Actively pursuing intimacy with Jesus through spiritual exercises, including, but not limited to: daily Bible study/prayer, corporate & personal worship, active church membership, sacrificial service, solitude, fasting.
- Understands, can explain, defend, and live out biblical theology.
- Fully integrated understanding of stewardship, demonstrated in tithing and service.
- Motivated to serve in love, modeling the character of Jesus, consistently demonstrating the Fruit of the Spirit.
- Lives a grace-filled life marked by unity and accountability in authentic Christian community.
- Intentionally lives out the Great Commission in everyday relationships, as well as serving those in need, in their community and around the world.

Spiritual Beliefs & Attitudes

Church Activities

Personal Spiritual Practices

Spiritual Activities with Others

- **Salvation by Grace**
- **The Trinity**
- Personal God
- Christ is First
- Authority of the Bible

- **Serve the Church**
- Weekend Services
- Small Groups

- **Reflection on Scripture (rare to frequent)**
- Bible Reading (rare to frequent)
- **Prayer to Seek Guidance (occasional to frequent)**
- Prayer to Confess Sins

- Spiritual Friendships

- **Personal God**
- Salvation by Grace
- Authority of the Bible
- Christ is First
- Identity in Christ

- **Serve those in Need Through my Church**
- Serve the Church
- Small Groups
- Weekend Services
- Adult Education Classes Focused on Spiritual Topics

- **Reflection on Scripture (frequent)**
- **Prayer to Seek Guidance (frequent to daily)**
- Tithing
- Journaling (rarely)
- Solitude (frequent)
- Bible Reading (frequent)

- **Evangelism**
- Spiritual Friendships
- Serving Those in Need on my own
- Spiritual Mentors

- **Giving Away my Life**
- **Christ is First**
- **Identity in Christ**
- **Authority of the Bible**
- Stewardship

- **Serve those in Need Through my Church**
- Additional Teaching/Worship Service

- **Reflection on Scripture (frequent to daily)**
- Bible Reading (frequent)
- Tithing
- Journaling
- Solitude (frequent)
- Prayer to Confess Sins (daily)
- Prayer to Seek Guidance (daily)

- Evangelism
- Spiritual Mentors
- Serving Those in Need on my own