

Getting to Know You

1. Since we're discussing "the soil," share with the group your take on gardening. Hate it? Like it? Love it? Don't care? And of course, why?
2. If you want a garden you'll fall in love with, head to Victoria, BC and visit the Butchart Gardens. I felt like it's as close to heaven as you can get on earth. :) -Nik

In part 2 of our new series *How to Study the Bible* we looked at Luke 10 and the story of Martha and Mary. It's a great place to consider the soil of our hearts before we sit down to study the Bible. Here we go...

Digging Deeper

1. Going back to your homework from last week, did you memorize Acts 17:11? If so, take a shot at quoting it to your group. (Hints: Bereans, noble character, excited about the message, searched.) Can someone explain why this verse is important?
2. In the Part 2 introduction Pastor Nik talked about making and checking off lists.
 - a. What kind of person are you when it comes to lists: Love them and use them? Hate lists? Never been much of a list-maker?... Explain.
 - b. How was the "list story" pertinent to the message?
3. In Luke 10:38, as we opened the story, Jesus and his disciples show up at Martha and Mary's home unannounced. Martha didn't feel ready and put herself to work.
 - a. If Jesus were to show up at some random point in your day, how might you handle him?
 - b. BTW, he actually does. How so?
4. Luke 10:40a—*"But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made."* If spending time studying the Bible is actually spending time with Jesus:
 - a. How diligent are you about creating that time?
 - b. What distractions do you struggle with that keep you from being fully engaged in Bible study?
5. Luke 10:40b—*"She came to him and asked, 'Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!'"*
 - a. What could make Martha talk to Jesus like this? Do you ever find yourself responding to Jesus in the same manner? How so?
6. In the Luke 10 story, Martha is contrasted with Mary, who sits at Jesus' feet listening intently to him. Jesus responds to Martha in verse 41-42, "...you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed, indeed only one..."
 - a. It's a generic question, but how does this sentence from Jesus speak to you?
 - b. Based on this sentence, how did Pastor Nik encourage you to focus correctly before sitting down to study the Bible?
7. When considering Bible study, a great place to start is finding a translation. If you own a Bible, or use a Bible app, what translation are you using? How did you end up using that version?

8. Pastor Nik said a great Bible to use is a Study Bible. If you have one, what do you like about it? If you don't did anything stick out to you about why you might consider getting one for your Bible study time?

Making It Personal

- While devotionally reading should become a daily habit, going deeper in Bible Study will likely take a little more time. Consider your schedule and where you might find 30 minutes, 2 to 4 times a week, to study the Bible. If you're able to now, and as an accountability tool, tell your group what times you plan on studying the Bible.
- Have someone in your group pray for everyone along the topic of Bible study before you dismiss today.
- Do you still need to memorize Acts 17:11? Give it another try this week! "Now the Bereans were of more noble character..."