

SPRING CLEANING

LETTING GOD INTO EVERY ROOM IN YOUR LIFE

Week 4: Furnish the House

Growth Group Opener:

Do you clean as you go or let it pile up and then panic?

How does that tendency show up in your life beyond housekeeping?

Read Galatians 5:16-26; Matthew 12:43-45

Jesus' warning in Matthew 12 is sobering. Why do you think cleaning is not enough?

What does it look like spiritually to have a clean home that is swept and in order, but empty? What is the invitation that Christ holds for those with this kind of home?

Paul tells us in Galatians to walk by the Spirit and keep in step with him. What is the difference between working hard for God and keeping in step/walking with him? What changes in position and leadership? What changes in pace?

What role do spiritual disciplines play in your life to keep you in step with the Lord?

Many feel a heaviness toward the disciplines, whether it be guilt, pride, or weariness. Do you view them more as opportunities for connection or obligations? Why?

Are there any of the disciplines that have been life-giving for you in the past? Which ones feel heavy right now?

Read John 15:1-8. Jesus says fruit comes from abiding, not striving.

How is abiding different from working/striving? How is it different from doing nothing?

What do we learn about God in these passages?

What is one rhythm you sense the Lord inviting you to either begin or to restore? What might you need to do to accommodate that rhythm and actually sustain it?

Prayer:

Father, thank you for inviting us into union with you. Thank you for providing the nourishment that both sustains us and produces fruit in our lives. May we create space in the busyness of our lives to simply be with you, to match your steps, and to deeply connect to what truly brings us life. In the name of Jesus, amen.

Grow: Find a friend or two to walk through the following workbook with, or even your Growth Group, perhaps over the summer. <https://amzn.to/3QJQXpY>

Additional Resources: Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life (Whitney); Streams of Living Water (Foster); The Spirit of the Disciplines (Willard).