Live on Your Own

Listen Carefully

1/20-1/24 Vol.1 Session 2

Before you begin each devotion, pray and ask God to speak to you through His Word. Record your answers to the following questions in the space provided or in your personal journal.

Day 1: Nicodemus Seeks Jesus for Answers Read John 3:1–21.

Personal Reflection Questions

QUES: If Jesus were standing in front of you right now, what burning questions would you have for Him?

QUES: Nicodemus took a big risk to meet with Jesus. When it comes to your relationship with Jesus, have you settled into a life of comfort or are you taking risks to encounter Him in a deeper way and show others that you believe in His truth?

QUES: Nicodemus was convinced that Jesus had more to teach him. What's the most recent truth Jesus has revealed to you? How did you respond to that truth?

Activate Nicodemus heard about God's great plan of salvation after a powerful encounter with Jesus' truth. Today, as Jesus' representatives, we have the opportunity to be like Jesus in our life encounters. Chances are, God has placed someone in your life who is currently questioning if God loves them. Knowing His truth, you can share God's great plan of love with them like Jesus did with Nicodemus.

Challenge Identify someone in your life who needs to know that God loves them so much He sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to die for their sins and give them eternal life. Make plans to tell that person this week. Following your conversation, ask if you can pray with them. Pray that Jesus would continue to reveal himself to them and answer every question they might have.

QUES: Like Nicodemus, are you actively seeking Jesus for answers in your life? If not, what can you do to change that?

Day 2: Accept the Invitation Read Matthew 7:7–11. Have you ever known someone who seemed completely unapproachable? Maybe you were afraid to talk to them or ask them for anything. Thankfully, Jesus is not that way. In fact, He invites us to engage with Him. He doesn't judge us or condemn us for having questions. He gives us permission to come boldly to Him (Hebrews 4:16) whenever we are in need. He is not bothered by our questions or overwhelmed by the number of times we might ask. Instead, He lovingly turns His ear toward us and invites us to ask for anything we need.

QUES: How does it make you feel to know that Jesus will listen to you?

QUES: What prevents you from bringing all of your questions to Jesus?

Day 3: Start a Conversation Read Matthew 6:5–13. When was the last time you had a deep meaningful conversation with a close friend? When we open our mouth to pray, we're starting a conversation with our Heavenly Father, God. When we pray, we have His full attention. We shouldn't feel like we're talking to someone far off or someone uninterested in our life. We should be confident that we're engaged in a conversation with a loving God who cares about every detail of our life and has our best interest in mind. God is waiting for you to start a conversation with Him.

QUES: When was the last time you had a deep conversation with God? What was the topic of your conversation?

QUES: What could be the benefits of setting aside a consistent time for prayer?

Day 4: Listen for Revelation Read Proverbs 2:1–6. Have you ever had a conversation with someone who did all the talking? A conversation is only healthy if both people are able to equally contribute with honest dialogue and active listening. When we start a conversation with God and communicate our questions to Him, He wants to have an opportunity to give us the answers we need. So it's important for us to listen carefully and pay attention as He speaks to us. Time spent listening to God's voice will yield the wisdom we so desperately need.

QUES: When you reflect on your conversations with God, who does most of the talking? You or Jesus?

QUES: How might incorporating moments of silence change your prayer time and its outcome?

Day 5: Experience Life Transformation Read John 7:40–53. When Nicodemus finished his late-night conversation with Jesus, we're left not knowing what happened between them. Did Nicodemus become one of Jesus' followers or did he walk away unchanged? With a little digging later in the Book of John, we discover that Nicodemus appeared to be devoted to Jesus. How sad that the religious leaders challenging Nicodemus told him to search the Scriptures to find truth. Sadly, they didn't see truth for themselves.

QUES: Why do you think Nicodemus spoke up to the Pharisees?

QUES: What do you think Nicodemus was feeling as he challenged his peers?