**Live on Your Own**

**Day 1: One Thing**

Review the video for this session.

**Engage**

Read [Luke 10:38–42](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk10.38-42).

**Consider**

It’s important that we understand the heart of Jesus in this Bible story. He’s not saying that we should spend all our time sitting at His feet in worship. What Mary and Martha show us is that we need to prioritize our time with Jesus rather than getting caught up with being busy all the time. Too many things distract us from spending time with Jesus. The message here is knowing that the busyness of life should never get in the way of our relationship with Jesus.

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| **QUESTION**How does Mary’s example help us in our relationship with Jesus? |

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| **QUESTION**Do you think Martha gets a bad rap? Why or why not? |

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| **QUESTION**What do you think Jesus would say about the right time to do our daily responsibilities? |

**Reflect**

This short Bible story carries a big message. We should find ourself growing in our desire to be with Jesus. But let’s not forget that Jesus wants to spend time with us. It’s safe to say that Jesus was glad Mary spent time with Him and the other guests. He encouraged Martha not to miss out on what was important. A great meal can be eaten in a matter of moments and only fill us temporarily. Spending time with Jesus can last a lifetime.

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| **QUESTION**How does knowing Jesus wants to have time with you encourage you to prioritize time with Him? |

**Activate**

Take time today and spend it with Jesus. Take a walk outside or go to your room to be alone with Jesus. Take your Bible to read a bit, pray, worship, and then listen. Make this a time of sitting at the feet of Jesus.

**Pray**

Dear Jesus, I want to know You more. Help me to prioritize spending time with You and learn what it means to sit at Your feet and listen as You speak to me. I pray believers everywhere will be captivated by You and want to be with You. In Your name, I pray. Amen.

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**Day 2: A Little Reflection**

**Engage**

Read [Psalm 119:10–16](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps119.10-16).

**Consider**

[Psalm 119](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps119) is the longest chapter in the entire Bible. These 176 verses contain some of the greatest descriptions of God, richest praise, practical advice, and challenging thoughts in the Bible. In this passage, the writer showed us the heart of someone desperately wanting to be with God. The writer pulls no punches, telling us about ways of showing love and the desire to know God above all else.

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| **QUESTION**The writer of this psalm lists several things that he has done or will do in his pursuit of God. What are at least five things he listed? |

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| **QUESTION**Which verse is your favorite? Why? |

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| **QUESTION**What would you say if you had to sum up these verses into one sentence? |

**Reflect**

We can be confident that this writer prioritized spending time with God. Just like this Psalmist, we should hide God’s Word in our heart, praise God, and recite His commands. But let’s not forget verse [15](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps119.15). What would inspire someone to want to reflect on God’s ways? The answer is simple: a deep and growing love for God and His Word.

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| **QUESTION**What do you think it means to reflect on the ways of God? |

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| **QUESTION**What are a few ways you can reflect on God’s ways? |

**Activate**

Take time to sit and reflect on who God is and His ways. Consider writing some of these down in a journal or in the margins of your Bible. Avoid just asking Him for things, but rather, sit quietly as you reflect on how great God is.

**Pray**

Dear God, I want to know You in a better way than I ever have. Help me to block out all the distractions of life and focus on You and Your Word. Help me learn to worship in greater ways and see You clearer than ever. Amen.

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**Day 3: Don’t Worry about It**

**Engage**

Read [Matthew 6:25–34](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt6.25-34).

**Consider**

Jesus preached to a large crowd in what we refer to as the Sermon on the Mount. This teaching begins in [Matthew 5](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt5) and goes through chapters [6](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt6) and [7](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt7). It’s the longest recorded sermon of Jesus in the Bible. In it, Jesus shared how to live as one of His followers. He spoke about prayer, fasting, giving, forgiveness, persecution, and so much more. Consider taking time to read these chapters as you spend time with Him. At the end of chapter [6](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt6), Jesus addressed the issue of worrying about things in our life. He finished by telling how to overcome many of the worries of life. Did you catch it?

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| **QUESTION**What things did Jesus tell us not to worry about? |

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| **QUESTION**How did Jesus tell us to address worry in our life? |

**Reflect**

Most prayers are centered around asking for God to provide. We go to Him when we are worried about something in our life—like when we need healing, want to make the team, or must do well on a test. But here, Jesus said we should seek the kingdom of God above all else. This doesn’t mean we can’t ask God to help us. We should. What it does mean is that as we seek Him, we want what He wants. Lining up our goals with His and trusting Him to answer is a big part of letting go of a lot of life’s worries.

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| **QUESTION**What is it you’re most worried about? Why? |

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| **QUESTION**How can you learn to trust Jesus with what worries you? |

**Activate**

As you take time to be with Jesus, give your worries to Him. Listen to Him speak to you about your fears. Then watch as He addresses the worries you have in life.

**Pray**

Dear God, there are many things on my mind right now. Help me to give them to You and seek You. Help me to grow in my trust in who You are and what You do in my life. Help me not to worry about things, and instead, help me to choose to worship You. Amen.

**Live on Your Own**

**Day 4: When You Pray**

**Engage**

Read [Matthew 6:5–13](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt6.5-13).

**Consider**

We’re back to reading the Sermon on the Mount—the longest recorded sermon Jesus shared. It’s here that we read what Jesus spoke about prayer. You’ll notice He gave us an idea on where to pray, how to pray, and the outcome of prayer. We should understand this isn’t a formula that we simply recite. Jesus gave us a road map for what and how to pray. Think of it as a path to take when we pray. Let’s see if we can catch the main idea behind Jesus’ message on prayer.

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| **QUESTION**How would you describe the main parts that make up Jesus’ prayer? |

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| **QUESTION**What did Jesus say about where to pray in this passage in comparison to “hypocrites”? |

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think Jesus encouraged us to go away by ourself and shut the door? |

**Reflect**

We often think of prayer as a one-sided conversation. Many people view prayer just as we talk to God and ask Him for things. But it’s so much more than this. Prayer is a back-and-forth conversation with God, our Creator and Heavenly Father. We speak and listen. We tell Him things and ask Him things. We pray for others and their needs. We worship and thank Him as we pray and listen when He speaks back to us.

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| **QUESTION**How have these verses impacted your perspective on prioritizing prayer and time with Jesus? |

**Activate**

As you spend time with Jesus today, take some of the things you’ve learned in this devotion and apply them as you communicate with Him.

**Pray**

Using the parts of Jesus’ prayer that you identified earlier, create your own prayer based on His model.

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**Day 5: Come Closer**

**Engage**

Read [James 4:7–10](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jas4.7-10).

**Consider**

James, the writer of these verses, was a half-brother of Jesus. How would you like to grow up with Jesus as your brother? You would probably know a thing or two about humility! Later, James became one of the leaders of the Early Church. In these writings, we learn a lot about practical ways that we can live for God. Here, he shared some keys to being close to God.

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| **QUESTION**What are six things James tells us to do in this passage? Which one does he repeat? |

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| **QUESTION**Which of the six seems most difficult for you to do in life? Why? |

**Reflect**

I wonder if James ever felt like he would never be good enough for Jesus. Have you ever felt this way? Most, if not all of us, have felt this. Just like us, James might have felt he would never be able to measure up. Maybe this is why he wrote such practical things for us to do as we follow Jesus.

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| **QUESTION**What does it mean for you to come close to God? |

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| **QUESTION**What are some practical changes you could make in your life to get closer to God? |

**Activate**

Take one or more of your ideas on how to come close to God and do them. Perhaps it’s getting up earlier or playing worship music as you get ready or drive to school. Maybe it’s listening to a podcast or to Scripture being read. It may even be simply blocking out all noise and doing your best to listen to Jesus.

**Pray**

Dear God, thank You for verses like these that teach me the practical things I can do to grow closer to You. Help me to humble myself, resist the devil, come close to You, and purify my heart. I pray for followers everywhere to grow closer to You. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.