

Cultivating Intimacy in Community: Spiritual Disciplines Practices in the Context of Community - Overview

Often when we think of cultivating intimacy with Christ, we immediately picture a solitary endeavor: an individual sitting alone reading or praying. Although independent activities are without a doubt part of developing a healthy understanding of who God is and delving deeper into our personal relationships with Christ, the hope of this module is to fill out students' pictures of "Christian Activity" to include collaborative activities as well.

In this module students will explore and be encouraged to practice some of the "Spiritual Disciplines" that tend to be more communal in nature, or at least lend themselves well to being practiced within community or alongside others. This module is designed to follow the module entitled **Individual Spiritual Disciplines**. At the very least, students in your group would benefit from having a little bit of knowledge and some previous experience with the spiritual disciplines in general before heading into this module.

Lesson 1: In Community

In this lesson students will reflect on their previous experiences with spiritual disciplines and consider the scriptural basis and practical benefits of engaging in spiritual disciplines. At the end they will be directed to practice at least one of them.

Lesson 2: Serving by Identifying the Needs of Others

In this lesson, students will be challenged to think about the needs of others by considering the story of Stephen and the early church leaders dealing with the practical difficulty of dispersing food equitably in their community found in Acts 6.

Lesson 3: Service as a Discipline

This lesson begins with a very fun but challenging activity that will introduce them to the difficulties of having to serve out of areas of weakness rather than strength. Students will then look at the story of the feeding of the 5000 found in Mark 6, being asked to consider some of the obstacles Jesus and the disciples may have had to overcome in order to serve those they encountered.

Lesson 4: **Celebration**

In this lesson, students will look at a few different celebrations found in Scripture and then consider what or who could be celebrated in their own lives. This lesson provides an excellent opportunity to do some celebrating as group, or to plan a future celebration.