

When Your Way Isn't Working Session 3: The Way of Connection (Pages 43-48) Luke 10:38-42

Connect

If you haven't already, go around in your group and make introductions. Then, to get things started, discuss one of the following questions:

- What is something that spoke to your heart in last week's personal study that you would like to share with the group?
- When have you prioritized your to-do list over time with someone you love?

Watch

If you haven't already, watch the video for this session (Session 3: The Way of Connection). As you watch, take notes on statements and concepts that stand out to you.

Discuss

Now discuss what you just watched by answering the following questions.

1. What do you tend to put first— production *for* Jesus or connection *with* him? What are a few examples of some things you tend to put first in your life?
2. Read Ephesians 2:8-10 aloud. What does this passage say about works? Why is it critical for us to remember that we are saved by our faith and God's grace?
3. Consider this statement from the teaching: "The challenge for most of us is that when our way isn't working, we instinctively want to double down on production and make it happen out of our own strength and determination." Have you found this to be true in your life? Why do you think we keep trying to bear fruit ourselves even when our way isn't working?
4. Read Luke 10:38-42 aloud. How would you describe Martha's state of mind in this passage? Why did Jesus say her sister, Mary, had chosen what was better?
5. Would you say that you tend to be more like Martha, who was distracted with preparations, or more like Mary, who sat at the feet of Jesus? If you feel that you are more like Martha in the story, in what ways could you be less distracted with work and more focused on Jesus?

Respond

Jesus wants us to bear much fruit. The thing we need to remember is that bearing fruit doesn't come first. Abiding in Jesus, or staying connected to him, is the priority. When we set aside our own efforts to be fruitful and learn to sit quietly at Jesus' feet, we will find peace and rest. Take a few minutes on your own to consider some ways in which you might be prioritizing production over connection with Jesus, and then answer the questions below.

- What spoke most to your heart from the video teaching and the Scripture reading?

- What is God stirring you to do as a result?

- How will this strengthen your connection to Jesus?

Pray

End your time by praying together as a group. As you pray, ask God to show you ways in which you might be trying to gain his approval or impress others with your work for him. Ask the Lord to help you exchange those ways for connection with him and the fruit that only he can produce in you. Ask if anyone has prayer requests, and write those in the space below so that you and your group members can continue to pray about them in the week ahead.
