

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE.

Ice Breaker: Would you rather be the hardest worker in the room and not be recognized, or do the least possible work and receive recognition?

Read: Mark 4:1-41 and John 15:5

Discussion Questions:

- Opening Thoughts
 - Why do you think some people (in sports, music, acting, etc.) believe they can skip practice and perform well anyway?
 - In what ways do Christians sometimes try to “live the Christian life” without consistent spiritual practices?
 - What happens when we attempt to live publicly for Jesus while neglecting private spiritual practices/disciplines?
 - Why is it important that our public faith is rooted in private connection with God (John 15:5)?
- Practices to Soften Hearts and Minds (Mark 4:3-4, 4:15)
 - What are some things that can harden a person’s heart toward God?
 - Which spiritual practices help soften your heart—silence, solitude, prayer, reading the Bible, Sabbath, etc.?
 - What is keeping God’s word from taking root in your life right now?
- Practices for Dealing with Difficulties (Mark 4:5–6; 4:16–17)
 - Why do difficulties and challenges sometimes cause us to pull away from God rather than toward Him?
 - How has God used past hardships to deepen your faith?
- Practices That Make Us Better Disciples in the World (Mark 4:7; 4:18–19)
 - Why is materialism such a powerful force in our culture?
 - What does it look like to follow Jesus faithfully in the world without being shaped by the world?
- Closing Thoughts (Mark 4:8, 4:20, 4:26–32)
 - Which spiritual practice do you sense God inviting you to deepen or begin in this season?
 - What small seeds of obedience might God grow into something much larger (Mark 4:30–32)?

Share prayer requests and close in prayer.

