

**Icebreaker:** What has gone well so far in your home group? What would you suggest to make it even better?

**Lectio Divina (read; meditate; pray; contemplate):** Read Matthew 6:19-34 and/or Jeremiah 29:10-14 aloud and have your group share what stands out to each of them in the passage.

**Discuss:**

1. Do you know someone who is single-minded for God? (Single-mindedness means seeking God first and depending on God in all things.) What is that person like? What do they do and not do? What is their attitude about the world?
2. As we think about single-mindedness and read Matthew 6:24 – you cannot serve both God and money. We all must make a living, pay our rent or mortgage, and provide food and clothes for ourselves and families. So how do we serve God, not money? How do we not worry about food, clothes, and money?
3. In Matthew 6:34, Jesus says do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. If we don't worry about tomorrow, it makes sense to focus on God and today. What are some practical things you must do every single day? In the midst of everyday practices, what can you do daily to remind yourself of God?
4. One way to define ambivalence is thinking about two (or more) choices and not knowing, due to lack of knowledge or lack of conviction, which to pursue. This is in direct conflict with being single-minded. How does your ambivalence toward situations keep you from being single-minded in your commitment to God? How are some ways you have combatted ambivalence in your life?
5. In commenting on Matthew 6, Dale Bruner says, "Jesus does not quash ambition, he elevates it. The Christian is to be ambitious, passionate, acquisitive, enterprising – for the Father's approval." Are you able to use your ambition and passion for God? If not, how can you allow God or ask God to redirect your ambition and passion to use it for his kingdom?
6. What is one thing you all might do this coming week to seek first God's kingdom (Matthew 6:33) and seek God with all your heart (Jeremiah 29:13)?

**Prayer:**

Share your prayer requests with one another and also remember those from our church family:

- > Prayers of comfort for Sarah and Tom Cartwright and family in the death of Sarah's father and for Sherrie and Brent Bloomendaal and family in the death of Sherrie's father.
- > Prayers of healing for Sue Armstrong and Robie Strickland.

**Reminders for your group:**

> Encourage group members to join in ZPC's Lenten reading of the gospels. Schedules available at the Welcome Center and at [zpc.org](http://zpc.org).

**Leader's notes:**

Single-mindedness can be a challenging thing to talk about and even more challenging to accomplish. Being single-minded for God is, as Jeremiah says, seeking God with all your heart. It is putting God first daily. We will all fall short in being single-minded for God. Don't get discouraged. We are called to give our minds and hearts to God and even surrender ourselves to God every single day. Jesus says don't worry about tomorrow. Instead, we can give this day – and each day – to God.

**[Question 1]** It is encouraging to think of people who are more single-minded than us. Think of people you admire for their faith. Share some practical ways they are single-minded. Perhaps the ways they live for God and love others.

**[Question 2]** Our money and possessions should not control us or our decisions. We should control them. When we put God first, the importance of money and things starts to fade. In fact, Jesus says when we put God first, all these other things shall be added to us. The answers for loving God more than money is in putting God first daily even in our possessions and priorities.

**[Question 3]** One commentator says, "Planning for tomorrow is time well spent. Worrying about tomorrow is time wasted." If we are not to worry about tomorrow, we can focus on today. Each day we must sleep, eat, pray, work, care for others, and take care of self. In the midst of daily tasks, intentionally think about devoting those things to God. Be open to seeing God in the little things each day – as you give each day to him.

**[Question 4]** Ambivalence points to the coexistence within us of positive and negative feelings toward something that simultaneously draws us in opposite directions. One example of this might be having these thoughts simultaneously: I would feel so much better if I spend more time in prayer; I would feel so much better if I got more sleep. A choice needs to be made as to how this person will spend his/her time. Will they get up early to spend time in prayer or will they sleep in? Ask your group if they struggle with these kinds of choices and how they have dealt with them.

**[Question 5]** The goal is not to get rid of all ambition but to redirect in God's direction. It is good to acknowledge your passions and ambitions and then to put them to use. We are called to utilize our gifts, ambitions, and passions for Christ to bring Honor to him. Ask God often to use your unique abilities, gifts, passions, and ambitions for good.

**[Question 6]** This question is to help your group get practical. Let them run with this a little bit and push them to think in practical and do-able steps. One might be to start each morning with prayer – "God I give you this day. It belongs to you." It might be spending 10 minutes in silence, listening to God. It might be dedicating your work around the house or in your career to God each day. Get practical and real.