

into the woods

PART 3

REAL PEOPLE
REAL STORIES
A REAL GOD.

FOR A
BETTER STORY.

GET INTO THE WOODS: NOT TO ESCAPE, BUT TO BECOME LIKE JESUS

Less hurry.
More Jesus.

INTO A
BETTER
STORY

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

REAL CONVERSATIONS.
REAL CHANGE.



*"In the woods,
we behold Jesus.
As we behold Him,
we become like Him."*

2 CORINTHIANS 3:18

GROUP GUIDELINES

- Be honest
- Be respectful
- Be a good listener
- Keep it confidential
- Encourage one another
- Point each other to Jesus

Better
Together



GETTING STARTED

1. What's your favorite place to get away and be alone? Why?
2. Think back to a time when slowing down actually helped you grow. What happened?



READ TOGETHER

KEY SCRIPTURES

Read each passage aloud as a group. Take your time and let it sink in.

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

Being transformed into His image.

Exodus 34:29-35

We have been invited into the presence of God.

Philippians 2:5-8

Time with Jesus softens our posture.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances...



DISCUSS TOGETHER

1. How have you seen a small habit (good or bad) create a ripple effect in your own daily routine?
2. How does it make you feel to know you don't have to be a perfect "religious expert" to be welcomed into God's presence?
3. If someone looked at your patience, your words, or your reactions this past week, would they be able to tell that you've been spending time with Jesus?
4. What are some practical ways you can show Jesus' love to a family member, coworker, or neighbor this week?
5. We see Jesus' heart posture so evidently. Where might you need to practice greater humility, patience, or forgiveness?
6. 2 Corinthians 3:18 speaks about being transformed into the image of the Lord. What is one area of your life where you would like to become more like Jesus?
7. What stood out to you when you intentionally spent time with Jesus this week and "got into the woods"?



PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

NEXT STEPS

- Choose one of the three practices and commit to a specific time and place this week.
- Remove one distraction that usually keeps you from being with God.
- Share your plan with the group and ask someone to check in with you next week.



PRAY TOGETHER

- Thank God for the gift of His presence.
- Ask for help to be intentional about getting into the woods.
- Pray that as we behold Jesus, we will become more like Him.
- Pray for courage to remove distractions and make time with God a priority.

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THE BIG IDEA

Getting into the woods isn't about escaping life.

It's about being transformed so we can reenter life differently.

A LOOK BACK

THE JOURNEY SO FAR

1

PART 1 — WHY GET INTO THE WOODS?

We saw that Jesus' relationship with the quiet place (*erēmos*) was not random or circumstantial. It was rhythmic and consistent.

- Jesus withdrew often.
- He made it a habit.
- It wasn't just for the hard moments.
- What is your relationship with the woods? Does it need to change?

2

PART 2 — HOW DO WE GET INTO THE WOODS?

We explored three practices that can help all of us get into the woods, no matter where you are on your faith journey—new, exploring, or seasoned.

- Silence and solitude
- Meditating on Scripture
- Prayer

These practices help us experience communion with God, renewal of our souls, and clarity to live faithfully.

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE WOODS?

THREE WAYS IT CHANGES US



A SLOWER PACE

- Less hurry, more peace.
- Greater patience.
- More margin for people.
- Love and hurry are incompatible.



A SOFTER POSTURE

- Less defensiveness.
- More humility.
- Quicker to forgive.
- More grace with others.
- Putting others before ourselves.



A SHARPER AWARENESS

- We begin to notice God in everyday moments.
- We recognize His presence in our work, our homes, our relationships, and our neighborhoods.
- We reenter life with clarity to live faithfully.

*In the woods, we behold Jesus.
As we behold Him, we become like Him.*

2 CORINTHIANS 3:18

TODAY'S QUESTION

What happens to us when getting into the woods becomes a consistent part of our lives?

As you go into the woods, consider how leaving behind the noise of the world allows you to hear God's voice, rest in His creation, and grow deeper in your faith.

COMMON OBJECTIONS

- "I don't have extra time in my day."
- "I have too many things to do."
- "My mind won't slow down."
- "I don't know where to start."

The good news is, this isn't about having all the answers. It's about showing up. God meets us in the woods.

THE GOAL

We get into the woods so we can become people who love God and love others.

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7



MEDITATE ON THIS WEEK

Take time this week to read and reflect on these passages. Ask God what He wants to show you through His Word.

EXODUS 34:29-35

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, his face was shining because he had been talking with the Lord.

NIV

2 CORINTHIANS 3:17-18

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

NIV

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a obedient to death—even death on a cross!

NIV

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

NIV