



Connect Discussion Guide
Sunday Message - 9/6/20 | Tyler Myers | Matthew 11:28–30

Praxis // living in the presence and mission of Jesus.

Key Scriptures:

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

- Matthew 11:28–30

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

- Galatians 2:20

My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

- James 5:19–20

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

- 2 Peter 1:3–4

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

- 1 John 1:5

My little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!

- Galatians 4:19

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.

- Ephesians 4:11–12

Message Highlights:

- Life change is that process in which you recognize you are in need of a complete overhaul and some ongoing upgrades.
- Encounter = Meaningful encounters with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Connect = Connecting with God’s Word and God’s People.
- Serve = Serving one another other, our community and the world.
- It doesn’t take long to see the church’s call and purpose is to make a relationship with Jesus known and accessible.



- “It is not so much the case that God has a mission for his church in the world, as that God has a church for his mission in the world. Mission was not made for the church; the church was made for mission – God’s mission.” - Christopher J. H. Wright
- “We should not allow people to see the church as a weekly service they attend to make God happy. The gathering of the church is preparation for heavenly battle. We ‘huddle together’ for a few minutes each week to worship God together and build each other up so that each of us can more effectively run the ‘missional play’ throughout the week.” - J.D. Greear

Conversation Starter:

- How would you describe life change? Why do you think people are often moved by stories of transformation, stories that demonstrate a powerful difference between the “before” and the “after?”

Discuss the Message:

1. Read Matthew 11:28-30 above. What stands out to you in Jesus’ invitation to follow him?
2. Jesus is honest with us that following him will be difficult at times (Mark 8:34, John 16:33). So what did Jesus mean when he said, “My yoke is easy, my burden is light?”
3. What are some steps we can take when we feel like we are spiritually “stuck”?
4. Read Galatians 4:19 above. What seems to have been frustrating Paul when he wrote that (read more of the context in Galatians 4)? What does it mean to “labor to see the person of Christ formed in another person? Who has done that for you? Who are you doing that for?
5. Spiritual growth in Christ (life change) comes through following his example and practices. What are some practical ways we can help one another do that?
6. Living in the presence and mission of Jesus means that we will often have to sacrifice certain worldly things in order to truly experience life change. Is there anything you struggle to give up in order to follow his example more? If yes, what can those around you do to help you with that?

Pray:

- Pray for one another.
- Pray that we might individually and collectively experience life change as we pursue the presence and mission of Jesus.
- Pray that those around us who are not connected would find connection with God and God’s people.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to show each of us our part in helping them get connected to Christ and his church, the Body of Christ.