

# BEING WITH GOD IN CHAOS

## MARK 1:35

### CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE - JANUARY 21, 2024

---

#### SCRIPTURE READING

*Mark 1:35 ESV*

35 And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.

#### ICE BREAKER QUESTION

In what ways might your life feel chaotic right now? What aspects of your life draw most of your attention and consume your capacity on a typical day, and why?

#### SERMON RECAP

If you want to experience more communion with God amid a chaotic life, you must--

- Refuse to live without it;
- Be willing to give something up; and
- Practice the presence of God.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Observation: What does the passage say?**

1. Read Mark 1:35 aloud as a group. Before interpreting or applying the passage, share observations about it.
  - In Mark 1:9-34, what is the nature and context of Jesus' early ministry?
    - How did it begin?
    - What did He do? In what activities was He involved, and with whom?
    - What were the outcomes of His works?
  - In Mark 1:35, what did Jesus do and where did He do it?
2. How would you explain or summarize today's scriptures in your own words?

**Interpretation: What does the passage mean?**

1. In Mark 1:16-20, why might the disciples, who were busy with people and activity, have responded to Jesus' invitation by immediately following Him?
2. In Mark 1:35 and 1:38-39, in the context of the significant work He was performing (vv. 1:32-34) and the great demands before Him (vv. 1:36-37), what did Jesus do? Why might He have taken this step?

**Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?**

1. In your heart and mind, who is the LORD, the One Who is inviting you to know Him, know His presence, and abide in Him? Why does He offer this invitation to you?
2. Read Psalm 34. In verse 8, what might happen if you tasted and saw that the LORD is good, and you took refuge in Him ... in the chaos?
3. How do you normally respond to the LORD's invitation to abide in Him and commune with Him? Describe your appetite for the LORD: How strong is it? Where does it come from? On what is it based? What encourages and discourages it? How do you guard, feed, and sustain it? What does it yield?
4. What space(s) do you already have for communing with the LORD? What new space(s) might you find (or create) for this purpose? How might some of your current space, time, and capacity be recaptured and repurposed toward this end?
5. In addition to first communing with the LORD in quiet spaces, how might it be possible to continue communing with the LORD and practicing His presence while in the presence of others/activity?

## LEADER NOTES

**21 DAYS OF PRAYER** | Over three weeks, from January 15-February 4, we are taking extra time to dedicate this year to the Lord. Sign up to let us know you're joining us, and access helpful resources for this intentional season of prayer at [mcleanbible.org/21days](https://mcleanbible.org/21days).

### RESOURCES |

- *The Practice of the Presence of God, by Brother Lawrence*
- *The Book of Common Prayer, prayer resources used in the Anglican Communion*
- *The Valley of Vision, a collection of Puritan prayers*
- *The Lectio 365 app*
- *Daily Office, by Peter Scazzero*