

John 10

ENGAGE FELLOWSHIP

“A thief has only one thing in mind—he wants to steal, slaughter, and destroy. But I came to give you everything in abundance, more than you expect—life in its fullness until you overflow!” (John 10:10)

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The promised abundant life is His life expressed through us by the Holy Spirit. Abundant life comes through the Christ-like character of Jesus.

Quietly listen before the Lord as His Spirit speaks of needed Christ-like character in your life: Ask the Lord to give you discernment and direction as you respond to the following:

“Lord, I sense a needed fresh work of servanthood in me, particularly toward _____” (which person/persons in your life?)

“Holy Spirit, I long for the humility of Christ to be more real in my life through my dependence upon You, my vulnerability before You and others, and my approachability.”

Who might benefit from your dependence on the Lord? Your vulnerability?
Your approachability? _____

“Lord Jesus, I need a strengthening of Your faith in me, that I might believe You for great things. Particularly, I want to trust you for...

Now, stand in faith against the "thief" who seeks to steal and destroy abundance: "Free me, Holy Spirit, from all of life's anxieties so that my heart might rest secure in You. Help me to cease any attempts to fearfully and selfishly take that which you've promised to supply."

“Lord, forgive me, as there have been times that I have taken Your grace for granted. I want your Spirit to stir within me a sensitive and grateful heart. Overwhelm me with a deep awareness of my identity as the beloved of God. Constrain and control me through the grateful wonder of your love.”

Now share with your partner or small group at least one of the ways that His Spirit might want to make changes in you. Pray together, with each of you asking God to change you in these ways. Ask Him to deepen your servant's heart and to humble your walk before Him and others. Implore Him to strengthen your faith, casting out all of your anxiety. Ask His Spirit to fill you with the gratitude for His wondrous love.

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“The Father has an intense love for me because I freely give my own life to raise it up again.” (John 10:17)

MY JOURNAL

lay my life that I may take it again!"

Although the Jews did not grasp the significance of Jesus' words, each of us as Christ followers understands them (John 10:19). We have been made a partaker of His divine nature through the life He laid down.

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Pause and consider Christ's cry to His Father from the cross: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me" (Matthew 27:46)? As Jesus took our sin on Himself, the Father, in His holiness had to turn away. Then Christ through the Holy Spirit would take up His life again!

Reflect once more on being born again. Why did Christ become sin—or, more personally, for whom did He do it? Who will benefit from His resurrection?

Quietly listen to His Spirit whisper the words to your soul: “He did it for you. He did it for you!” The One who knew no sin became sin (2 Corinthians 5:21). If He did not need to die for any other person in the whole world, He would have died for you—and He did die for you!

Allow yourself to respond to this glorious truth. He was raised for you. Meditate on the thought, or even whisper the words, “He did it for me.” Is your heart moved with wonder, humility, and joy? Does gratitude and praise fill your soul?

Now share these feelings with God. Give thanks for His initiative in manifesting His glory and presence to you. He laid down His life—and took it up again—for you! “Lord, I am so grateful that _____

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EXPERIENCE SCRIPTURE

"My own sheep will hear my voice and I know each one, and they will follow me." (John 10:27)

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Hearing Jesus is critical to following Him. His voice is not unclear or uncertain but often it's our *hearing* that is impaired. To follow Him faithfully requires freedom to hear.

Be still before the Lord and offer the same prayer that David prayed as you seek to put away the things that might hinder you from hearing God:

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (Psalm 139:23, 24).

- Search me, O Lord, for sins that hinder me from hearing You. Free me from all moral filth, evil, malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander. Free me to have a cleansed heart and mind. Speak now, Thy servant listens. I need to put away ...
- Search me, O Lord, for unresolved emotions that keep me from hearing You. Free me from any guilt or condemnation, any anger or bitterness, any fear or anxiety. Free me to live each moment “in the present” with You. Speak now Thy servant listens. I need to put away ...
- Search me, O Lord, for childish things that distract me from hearing You. Free me from rationalizing my behavior and blaming others, from idle chatter and self-focus. Free me to practice personal responsibility before You and others. Speak now, Thy servant listens. I need to put away...
- Self-initiative that prevent me from hearing You. Free me from my thoughts, my ways, my ideas, and my goals. May I instead embrace Your thoughts, Yours ways, Your ideas, and Your goals. Speak now, Thy servant listens. I need to put away ...

Pause and wait before the Lord. Listen as He reveals what needs to be put away. Now yield to Him, even though you may not fully know all that will be necessary: “*Lord I sense the need to put away* _____”

from my life.
Even before fully knowing all that may be required. I yield to You. I long to hear
You. Remove this from my life so that I can more freely hear what You reveal to me.
In Jesus' name, Amen."

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for writing or drawing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.