

Summer at Highlands

Pastor Allen Jessee | July 11, 2021

Big Idea

Making time for intimate connections with Jesus, deep conversations with others, and rest are all crucial in our relationship with Christ. Jesus gave us this example by spending quality time with His disciples around the campfire, sharing His Father's Word with them in an unhurried pace.

Let's Talk

1. Are you making time to connect with Jesus each day? - Many times our first excuse for not spending time with Jesus is that we are too busy. Even though Jesus and His disciples had an incredibly important mission, He knew it was necessary for them to spend time in conversation together. Even Jesus, the Son of God, went out into the mountains to spend time alone with His Father.

And after He had dismissed the crowds, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone. Matthew 14:23

2. Are you engaging in meaningful conversations with others? - As Pastor Allen said in his message, "we are better together." It is important to have friends who you can trust and connect with on a deep level. So often, we put up walls and do not share our spiritual needs with one another.

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. Hebrews 10:24 - 25

3. Is rest a priority in your life? - God instituted the Sabbath for us to take time to rest from our labor. The word Sabbath comes from the Hebrew word *shabbat*, which means "to cease, to rest". Resting is not simply recreation; it involves our entire being - our minds, hearts, bodies, and souls - as we rest in His presence.

Be still, and know that I am God... Psalm 46:10a

Reflect & Respond

Pastor Allen challenged us at the end of the message to set aside some intentional time to **1.) connect with Jesus, 2.) engage in meaningful conversations with one another, and 3.) slow down and rest**, maybe even by a campfire.