



STUDY GUIDE

March 7, 2021

Message Series:

Jesus' Greatest Hits

Message Title:

Few Things are Needed

Teaching Pastor:

Bryan Pope

### Warm-up/Icebreaker:

Highs and Lows - Share a high (good experience) and a low (bad experience) from the week.

### Pray:

Dear Lord, we acknowledge that we need You. Help us to take this time to listen intently. We move through life so quickly with little time to evaluate what matters most in our daily lives. Please bless our investment now and help us to not just hear Your Word, but to act on what we learn. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

### Get Started:

- If you had a five-minute warning that Jesus was coming to your house, what would you do with those minutes?

### Read Luke 10:38-42.

"Look, I know how easy it is to convince yourself that God needs me in the middle of everything. Like somehow His work won't get accomplished without me doing it. But I also know the truth, and the truth is God made all of creation out of nothing, He can find a replacement for me.

You may find yourself, as I have at times, feeling like **Jesus needs you**. But Jesus doesn't need you... **Jesus Wants You**.

He wants me not because of what I can do, but because He loves me. He wants your time, your focus, your love. He wants your life to be full, he wants you to feel joy, he wants you to have purpose. He wants the relationship that only the two of you can have together. But it requires us to commit the time to just be with Him. He is always the best choice." -Pastor Bryan Pope

### Read Acts 17:24-27.

- What is your reaction to being wanted by God (though not needed)? Is this a concept you have pondered before? In what ways will your life be different because of this understanding?

### Watch and Discuss Video: (running time 8 min.)

"Solitude well practiced will break the power of busyness, hurry, and loneliness. You will be relieved to discover that the world is not on your shoulders after all! You will find yourself and *you will be found by God* in fresh ways. Joy and peace will bubble up within you and arrive from what is around you. Praise and prayer will come to you and from within you. You will experience Sabbath rest. The soul anchor established in solitude will remain solid when you return to your ordinary life with others." - Dallas Willard

- Talk about a time when you first really experienced the presence of God. How old were you? Where were you? Share details. Pastor Beth suggested remembering those experiences as a way to go back to where you were closest to God and consider how doing so may help you reestablish a stronger connection.
- What are some spiritual practices that you already have in place or would like to put in place? How does your spiritual practice affect your life and relationship with Jesus?

Some ideas if needed:

Creative: Music and Singing

Active: Activism & Volunteering

Movement: Walking, Dance

Stillness: Silence

Relational: Deep Listening & Dialogue

For more examples of spiritual practice, see:

<https://www.contemplativemind.org/practices/tree>

### **Reflect and Commit:**

"Our relationship with THE God who wants US requires *a relationship*. And relationships don't survive, thrive, and live without investment. You can study God, it is a good thing to do, but study alone isn't enough. You can pray, you should, but prayer is a two-way conversation that requires you to invest as much time or more listening instead of speaking. You can worship, it's needed, but understanding God and why you worship Him requires your time in His presence. If you set aside time, time when you can come and find your rest in His presence, that rest will lead to grace if you will receive it, healing when you need it. You will get answers to your questions if you will ask them, peace, if the answers you expected, never come. And I hope you will find just like I have that this one thing changes everything. **Few things are needed, indeed only one.**" -Pastor Bryan Pope

### **Read Revelation 2:2-5.**

- What does it mean for God to take His presence from a church? Why would He do that? What does this scripture say to do to prevent that from happening?

### **First Read Revelation 3:20. Pause. Then read Revelation 3:15-20.**

- How does adding more context affect your interpretation of the scripture? What did you learn from this passage?

### **Pray:**

Dear Lord, help us to hear Your knock, You are always ready for us to open the door and let You in. Life's challenges distract us from what's most important, our relationship with You. Making the choice to draw close to You, and sit at Your feet, will always be the best choice, *indeed, our greatest choice*. It's in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.