



STUDY GUIDE July 16, 2023

**Message Series:** Road Trip  
**Message Title:** The Road to Devotion  
**Teaching Pastor:** Elijah Schiarelli

**Warm-up/Icebreaker:** (10 min)

Do you like road trips? Share about an epic road trip you have been on or want to take.

**Pray:**

Dear Lord, we praise You for who You are. We are so grateful to have the opportunity to connect with each other and are eager to hear what You want to teach us right now. Give us humility, discernment, and a willingness to leave our distractions behind and follow You. Thank You that You are a good and loving Father, making known the paths of life, helping us to be all You have called us to be, individually and as a community of believers. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Get Started:** (10 min.)

- What distracts you most in life? Do you catch yourself in the moment being distracted and what is your reaction?
- What past experiences (achievements and failures) have hindered you in your walk with God?

*“What’s so amazing about Jesus though is that frustration comes from a place of grief. Remember, Jesus wept over these people, not out of anger, but out of compassion! Jesus wanted them to become one of the devoted, to know the peace He had come to give them. He wanted them to experience life and experience it to the full, but in this moment right here...they were too distracted to see it.” -Pastor Elijah Schiarelli*

**Watch and Discuss Video** (running time 14:30 min., 15 minute discussion)

**Reread Luke 19:11-27.**

- What can we learn from the first two servants in the passage?
- What was the reason given by the third servant about why he did not put the money to work as instructed? What was the condition of his heart towards his master?

“Our devotion to Jesus manifests through how we act with the gift He has given us.” - Pastor Elijah Schiarelli

**Read Romans 12:11.**

- Describe what zeal for the Lord has been or could be in your life.
- Would you say you are more devoted or distracted?

**Reflect and Commit: (20 min.)**

*“Some of you in this room right now are too distracted. You’re too caught up in other priorities and other interests to see that Jesus is calling out to you, weeping over you, longing to give you peace, purpose, and protection. But because of one distraction or another, you can’t see it. But it’s not just you; all of us are prone to distraction from devotion to Jesus. We’ve all been there before, but how it manifests for each of us differs.” - Pastor Elijah Schiarelli*

**Read Philippians 3:17-20.**

- How does our culture influence people to “think only about life here on earth”? Discuss ways we can stop culture from distracting us from heavenly things.

**Read Revelation 3:15-21.**

- What does Jesus mean that they are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot? What application can you make?

*“The things that distract us don’t get the final say on where our devotion lies. No, We get to choose. We have the power to choose what we become devoted to. We get to say no to anything that would distract us from Jesus. No matter what it is, no matter how big or small, important or meaningless...even if our distraction is something imposed on us by someone or something else, we get to decide how we respond. We have the final say. The truth is, we can only blame one person for letting distractions get the best of us: ourselves. And yet, that’s good, because it means that we can fix it ourselves.” - Pastor Elijah Schiarelli*

**Gather prayer requests and pray. (5-10 min.)**

**Pray:**

Dear Lord, thank You for this time with You. We ask that You help us to clear the distractions daily, so we may come to know You more deeply and release control of what holds us back from following You. We praise You for being a God who desires a personal relationship with us. Help us to grasp the fullness of life through our encounters with You. And with each one, help us to step more fully into absolute devotion to You, loving and serving you with all our heart and soul. In doing so, our lives become living sacrifices and all that we do is for Your glory. We pray this in Jesus’ name, Amen.