

**Week One - Dying to Live**  
**Matthew 4:1-11**

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day One**

1. Life is full of paradoxes and oxymorons like “jumbo shrimp.” What are some paradoxes or tensions that you’ve learned from experience?
2. Read John 12:23-36. What metaphor does Christ use for his death and resurrection?
3. Does Jesus seem to consider his death a bad thing or a good thing?
4. What (or who) is Jesus talking about with his mention of the “harvest”?
5. How does Jesus’ teaching about death apply to our lives today?
6. What comfortable things make it hard to “give up” the pleasures of your own life?
7. End your FIFTEEN in prayer. Ask God to reveal to you the glory of eternal life with him, so that the comforts of earthly life pale in comparison.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two**

8. Which relationships do you prioritize more than any other? And how do you show that priority?
9. Read John 12:1-11. What was Judas’ reaction to Mary’s wasteful offering?
10. Who was right, Judas or Mary? Why?
11. If taking care of the poor is a worthy cause, why would Jesus rebuke Judas (besides Judas’ insincerity)?
12. What does it look like in your life to prioritize human relationships more than your walk with God?
13. How can you keep your focus on Jesus, even in the midst of relationships that require a lot of emotional energy?

14. As you finish your FIFTEEN, use this prompt to begin your prayer, “Dear Jesus, help me to prioritize the important things in my life, including my relationships by...”

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three**

15. Have you ever experienced or witnessed a person who is a blatant suck-up? Why do suck-ups bother people?

16. Read John 12:12-19. Why were most of the onlookers there to see Jesus? What were their motives?

17. How much do you think Jesus trusted their motives and praise? (For a hint, see an extra detail in Luke 19:41-48.)

18. When it came to Jesus’ life, what was the praise of the crowd worth?

19. What are some ways that other people’s opinions sway your own actions?

20. What could you do to minimize the influence of others’ judgment for the sake of following Christ’s commands in your life?

21. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer, use this prayer as your own. Lord, help me to hear only your pleasure and your praise of me. Help me to ignore the fleeting approval of the crowd, for the sake of your eternal glory.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four**

22. Is it possible to “dabble” in skydiving? What are some hobbies you can think of that you really need to commit to all the way if you’re going to do them at all?

23. Read John 12:20-36. The Passover was for Jews or converts to Judaism. But who else was curious about Jesus?

24. Do you think Jesus agreed to the Greeks’ request or not? Why?

25. Jesus says some really hard (and confusing) things. What picture does he paint of the level of commitment required to believe in the “Son of Man”?

26. In what ways do you find yourself “dabbling” in Christianity?

27. How would it look for you to find new ways to “walk in the light” instead of the darkness?

28. Prayer: Holy Spirit, please fight my daily battle against the easy pleasures and comforts of this world. Fill me with your power and help me to be “all-in” on my commitment to Jesus.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five**

29. Sociologists say that emotionally, one negative comment outweighs ten positive comments. Why do you think that is?

30. Read John 12:37-49. What kind of response from people did Jesus receive?

31. Do you think Jesus was prepared for this?

32. Why didn't people believe Jesus?

33. What keeps you from believing and trusting in the promises of Jesus?

34. What would you need from God to protect you from the negativity of enemies around you?

35. Prayer: Lord, fill my heart with your love and grace and truth. Protect me from the scorn or disbelief of the people in my life who are against me. Always remind me that you are for me. Amen.