

Group Meeting

Welcome!

Welcome to Session 14 of *Believe*. If there are any new members in your group, take a moment to introduce yourselves to each other. Then spend a couple of minutes sharing insights or questions about this session's personal study. Now start the video!

VIDEO TEACHING NOTES

As you watch the video segment for Session 14, use the following outline to record some of the main points. (The answer key is found at the end of the session.)

- Key Question: How do I keep my _____ on Jesus amidst distraction?
- Key Idea: I focus on God and his _____ for my life.
- Key Verse: "But _____ first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33)
- (Key Application) _____ lay your calendar and decisions before God for direction.
- (Key Application) Make decisions based on Christian _____.
- (Key Application) Try the _____ Day Planner.
- (Key Application) Learn to say "no" to the things you _____ be doing.

GETTING STARTED

Begin your discussion by reciting the Key Verse and Key Idea together as a group. On your first attempt, use your notes if you need help. On your second attempt, try to state them completely from memory.

KEY VERSE: "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33)



KEY IDEA: I focus on God and his priorities for my life.

GROUP DISCUSSION

As a group, discuss your thoughts and feelings about the following declarations. Which statements are easy to declare with certainty? Which are more challenging, and why?

- I desire Jesus Christ to be first in my life.
- I see every aspect of my life and work as service to God.
- I spend time each day reading God's Word and praying.
- I value a simple lifestyle over one cluttered with activities and material possessions.

Based on your group's dynamics and spiritual maturity, choose the 2–3 questions that will lead to the best discussion about this week's Key Idea.

1. Many people are tempted to compartmentalize their faith rather than allow God to influence every aspect of their lives. Discuss some of the reasons for this.
2. In what ways can materialism be the enemy of single-mindedness?
3. Which area of your life (relationships, finances, work, family, etc.) is hardest to submit to God's will and guidance?

4. How have you experienced the benefits of single-mindedness?

Read Matthew 6:19–24 (see the section "The Principles of Single-Mindedness" above) and choose 1–2 questions that will lead to the greatest discussion in you

1. How has seeking and serving God first brought his blessing upon your relationships, family, and finances?
2. Discuss why it is tempting to "store up treasures on earth."
3. Discuss what it specifically means to "store up treasures in heaven."

CASE STUDY

Use the following case study as a model for a real-life situation where you might use this week's Key Idea into practice.

Your good friend Patty has an internal motor that never stops. She is a mom of three, owns her own business, is president of the PTA, and somehow finds time to work out five days a week. Like clockwork, when you ask her how she is doing, the answer is always, "Busy." Many years ago when you were in Bible study together, you openly talked to each other about your spiritual lives. These days when you ask her what God is doing in her life, she replies, "Not much. I wish God were more a part of my life, but I just don't have any more. I'm barely keeping myself afloat the way things are. I don't know how I could squeeze more into my schedule."

Using the Key Applications from this session, what could you say or do to help her? If needed, refer to your video notes for a reminder of this session's Key Applications.

CLOSING PRAYER

Close your time together with prayer. Share your prayer requests with one another. Ask God to help you put this week's Key Idea into practice.

JOURNAL

If your church is doing the *Believe* church-wide campaign, bring this study guide with you to church and use the following space to take notes from the pastor's or teacher's message. If your church provides an outline, consider keeping it with this guide so you will have all of your notes and thoughts from your *Believe* journey in one place.

Lined area for journaling notes.

VIDEO NOTES ANSWER KEY

focus / priorities / seek / Daily / values / Hebrew / shouldn't