

Living the Abundant Life

By Being Abundantly Kind to Yourself

Abundance. It's a life goal for many people ... and let's be honest, who doesn't want a full and abundant life? Life is supposed to be good, but for many, satisfaction seems to be that bunch of grapes that's frustratingly hanging just inches beyond our grasp. Christianity promises a full and abundant life to those who are faithful, but many have concluded that church is the antithesis of anything that even resembles the good life. For the next five weeks, our Conversations will investigate this dilemma.

Mark 6:30–32

1. Put yourself _____ so you can put yourself _____.
2. Jesus appointed twelve _____
_____.
3. Jesus _____ of his followers.
4. You must know _____ and your _____ in order to
_____ others and their _____.

My Count Me In! Commitments

- I'll be here next Sunday
- I'll invite a friend
- I'll be here for the next four weeks (or will listen/watch online)
- I'll watch "The Missing Commandment" on Right Now Media
- I'll take the SHAPE inventory at FreeShapeTest.com to discover more about myself

Additional Notes

Digging Deeper, Going Further

Monday

Read: 2 Corinthians 12

1. What do you think Paul's "thorn" might have been?
2. What was Paul afraid he'd find in the Corinthian Church? (v 19–21)

Reflect: What prayers have you asked of God that have been answered with a resounding "No"? Why do you think God said no?

Tuesday

Read: 2 Corinthians 13

1. Does it appear that the Corinthian church dealt with the people who were creating discord in the church? (v 1–4)
2. By what standard do you think we're to "examine ourselves" in the faith? (v 5–7)

Reflect: Why is unity in the church so important to Paul? (v 11–12)

Wednesday

Read: Exodus 1

1. Why was the king of Egypt so afraid of the Israelites?
2. Why do you think God rewarded the midwives for their lies? (v 18–21)

Reflect: Why do you think the response to more difficult treatment led to a baby boom by the Israelites?

Thursday

Read: Exodus 2

1. How difficult do you think it was for the mother to give up her son to the Pharaoh's daughter?
2. How did the father of the daughters reward Moses for his kindness? (v 16–21)

Reflect: Why do you think Moses' first attempt to try and "save" the Israelites failed. (v 11–15).

Friday

Read: Exodus 3

1. How many different names for God do you find in the first four verses?
2. Why do you think Moses was afraid to try and rescue the Israelites again?

Reflect: Why do you think God promised that the Israelites would be able to "plunder the Egyptians"? (v 22)

Saturday: *Who will you invite to worship with you tomorrow?*