



FINE ARTS

deployed april week 3

discipleship dimension: prayer

DIMENSION OBJECTIVE:

Get alone with God.



"Behind the Scenes" Prayers

Kim Stidworthy

scripture

"When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you."

Matthew 6:5–6

discover

All of us can probably admit that we love to be recognized for what we do. Think back to a time where maybe you received a special award at school or a leader at church publicly celebrated you for how you serve. While it is not bad to be recognized for what you do, Jesus challenges us that the point isn't that others are aware of what we do. There is something special about being "behind the scenes"—in a closed room, on our knees just having a conversation with our Heavenly Father.

develop

This passage of Scripture comes from the famous Sermon on the Mount. There are plenty of times throughout the Bible where Jesus modeled getting alone with God in prayer. God is calling us today to have a personal relationship with Him, not just a public one. This requires us to intentionally plan these kinds of moments into our day. There is a concept called “station” that is commonly found in the monastic practice among monks. Station is the practice of stopping one thing before beginning another. It’s that moment between the moments—what monks refer to as a “holy pause.” If we don’t learn to pause within our day, we will have difficulty noticing God’s constant presence with us. Discuss with the group whether you have ever purposely put moments to pause in your daily schedule. What are some difficulties you face when trying to spend time alone with God? What could a “station” moment look like in your day?

deploy

Discuss with your team or coach how you can live out this discipline of spending time alone with God this week. How might getting in God’s presence help you when it comes to your Fine Arts presentation? What could this look like in your life before it is time to step on stage?

prayer

Take a moment before you start practice where everyone can get alone with God. Turn on some worship music and have everyone spread out. Take some time to pray and to listen for God’s voice.