

## LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

Week of February 21, 2021

"Listening by Pruning"

Luke 10:38-42

### WHAT'S HAPPENING @ ANCC

**LENT DEVOTIONAL:** Have you downloaded the "Living Well Through Lent" devotional yet? If not, then get it today and follow the daily readings and reflections throughout Lent.

**CENTRAL TRUTH:** Busyness prevents you from hearing God so you have to prune.

### GETTING STARTED

1. SOAP TIME: Share your most meaningful SOAP entry or Lent Devotional reflection from this past week (one or two people share).
2. Explain which phrase best describes your current physical, mental, and spiritual state:
  - I'm exhausted
  - I'm about to have a nervous breakdown
  - I'm fine
  - I feel the joy of the Lord

### DIGGING DEEPER

3. Read Luke 10:38-42. In verse 41, Jesus says to Martha as she busily works to host and prepare a meal for her guests, *"You are anxious and troubled about many things..."*
  - a. Are you anxious and troubled about anything in your life today? How does it affect your spiritual life and your ability to listen to God?
  - b. When you feel anxious and troubled, which consequence(s) do you experience the most? How do you think you can overcome it?
    - You question God's care
    - You find fault with others
    - You become self-absorbed
    - Duty replaces devotion

4. In Luke 10:41-42, Jesus tells Martha that she is anxious and troubled about “many things, but one thing is necessary.” He wants to calm Martha’s anxious and troubled spirit by having her keep things simple, in this case, limit the number of dishes for the meal to just one. Pastor Michael shared tips on how to simplify your life by using the analogy of a gardener pruning a rosebush. Read this quote and answer the questions below:

*A rosebush produces more buds than the plant has resources to feed and nurture to full potential. It can’t bring all of them to full bloom. It has a limit. In order for the rosebush to thrive, a certain number of buds and branches have to go. The gardener frees those needed resources so that the plant can redirect them to the buds with the greatest potential to become mature roses. Those buds get the best that the rosebush has to offer, and they thrive and grow to fullness. But the rosebush cannot do this without pruning.*

*You have to prune certain parts out of your life. You can’t just keep adding activities. If you don’t prune, then God may do it for you. If he does, it may happen through an illness or crisis or a loss because you cannot live beyond your limit month after month, year after year. If you don’t prune, you will eventually get average or worse.*

- a. How does this quote speak to you? What part of it speaks most personally to you?
- b. What dead, sick, or healthy rose(s) do you need to prune out of your life, either temporarily or permanently, in order to create more margin for God and for the people and things you value the most? How can your Life Group encourage you and keep you accountable?

## TAKING IT HOME

5. What has been the Spirit saying to you tonight and what specific action can you take this week in response?
6. PRAYER TIME: Pray that you will hear God more as you create more margin in your life.