

THE LIFE CHALLENGE

CONNECT

What imaginations and dreams have you had about being in a favored or beneficial relationship with someone? What did you do to try to gain that favorable benefit? Have any of those imaginations become a reality for you?

IDENTITY

What longings can you identify in your soul for a favorable and beneficial relationship with God? How do you see yourself putting in so much effort to gain God's favor and blessing – "Jesus, I know all that you have done for me on the cross – but – Jesus, this is what I've done?"

Jesus, tested the seeking man's "doing." This one thing you lack...what is the one thing you lack that the Spirit would test in you?

The disciples are perplexed that Jesus would say, "It's hard for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God." What are the things that you notice make it hard to enter...or more fully enter... the Kingdom of God?

THE EXAMEN

Peter speaks for all us, "What do we get for giving it all up for Jesus?" Jesus' "give it up" list are significant life essentials: home – where I belong; siblings – to whom I belong; parents – who I am; children – my future security; fields – my promised land. What is your "life essentials list" that Jesus may be graciously asking you to give up?

PRACTICE

Sit listening to the Spirit speak as you pray personally, "Jesus, you alone are enough for...(each of your life essentials)." If you are willing, share with the group what you heard the Spirit speak to you.

PRAY TOGETHER

- Pray for someone who is curious about eternal life. Pray that they will know that Jesus loves them and won't condemn them for not having it all figured out.
- Pray for the person beside you for a renewed revelation of "being" God's daughter and son through relationship to Jesus. Pray that they will rest from doing more to get God's family blessing.
- Pray that you will be willing to give up every earthly thing that you trust in. Pray that you will have your real needs met in ways that are ultimately far more secure than any physical conditions could ever be.