ENCOUNTERING GOD

Overview





Leaders in the western world often achieve their ministry success through activism. Dependence on God is easily replaced by dependence on personal ability or past accomplishment. The barrenness of a busy life becomes a norm rather than a season. Without a sustaining and transforming relationship with God the exterior life of ministry can quickly become a facade with no real foundation. How do we encounter God in busy lives? How does God want to change us? How can we grow through spiritual disciplines?

Reflect

THE ONE BOOK TO READ

• God in My Everything, Ken Shigematsu (Zondervan).

FOR FURTHER READING

- Dallas Willard, The Spirit of the Disciplines (Harper Collins).
- The Life You've Always Wanted, John Ortberg (Zondervan).
- Prayer, Tim Keller (Hodder).

OTHER RESOURCES

- · Websites: www.desiringgod.org; www.renovare.org.
- For an introduction to Ignatian approaches to prayer www.ignatianspirituality.com.
- Celebration of Discipline, Richard Foster (Harper Collins).

OExplore

MENTOR

- How was your experience on the Encountering God day? Exciting/boring/intellectually stimulating/intimate with Jesus/frightening/baffled by the mystery of God/ worrying because God seemed really absent/ wonderfully relaxing and reassuring. What did you learn through the day?
- Discuss how you encounter God and the place of the spiritual disciplines within this. Talk about the discipline you think you most need to work on. Identify the next steps forward.

PEER CELLS

- Discuss those things that undermine your ability to have a regular time of prayer.
- How can you support each other in your desire to pray?



Reflecting on this day, what new personal or leadership goals do you sense God nudging you towards? Or is there an existing goal he is nudging you to revisit? Make a note here of anything that comes to mind. (Use the reverse side if you need more space.)

LED MORE BY, LEAD MORE LIKE, LEAD MORE TO JESUS