

Digging Deeper this week...

<u>BiG iDEa</u>: Jesus invites me to experience the same effects of the gospel as indicated in the Bible.

Kingdoms. Governing institutions. Hidden powers. Personal agendas. Set aside some *time* throughout this week to read and reflect on what God's word says about His kingdom in contrast to our own. Some questions are provided for you or a small group of friends to provide focus for your reflection. <u>Before your start:</u> Breathe, pray, ask the Holy Spirit for help.

## **Identify**

Think of a time you were an apprentice in a craft or simply as a student in school? What elements of learning would you say were most important to the process?

## Read

*Scriptures to grow by...* Luke 6:12-19, Luke 3:22; John 4:12; Mat. 4:13-25, Mat. 11:29; Mat. 17:5; Colossians 2:6-15; Psalm 85, 103:1-5.

## Reflect

- 1. What words, phrases or ideas stand out to you from the Bible readings you read today? How do these passages help you understand the changes that the good news of the kingdom brings when Jesus proclaimed it? What patterns do you observe?
- 2. How do these words, phrases or ideas connect with your everyday life? What do they lead you to think or to do?
- 3. Doug quoted Henri Nouwen who said: "If we create space in which God can act and speak, something surprising will happen." How do you respond to this? What might Jesus want to say to you about your daily routine as his apprentice? What do you want to ask him?

## Respond (Soul-Work)

Moving forward... Go to a quiet place. Picture yourself standing before Jesus and hearing him say to you, "You are my son, my daughter whom I love and I am pleased with you. Period." How does this make you feel? If you struggle to believe this, how might time alone with Jesus and time with those who know this to be true help you deal with success as well as failure in your journey in God's kingdom?