

DRIFTING

WEEK 2
ABOVE ALL ELSE
MATT RANDALL

A drifting life feels _____ **meaningless** _____.

"I wonder, then, if when people say life is meaningless, what they really mean is their lives are meaningless. I wonder if they've chosen to believe their whole existence is unremarkable, and are projecting their dreary lives on the rest of us." Donald Miller

To avoid drifting, we must _____ **value** _____ what God _____ **values** _____.

The first thing God values is His _____ **relationship** _____ with you.

"You must not have any other god but me." Exodus 20:3

Jesus replied, "You must **love** the Lord your God with all your **heart**, all your **soul**, and all your **mind**. This is the first and greatest commandment." Matthew 22:37-38

"Those who **accept** my commandments and **obey** them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and **reveal** myself to each of them." John 14:21

"I _____ **want** _____ **you** _____ **want** _____ **me** _____." -God

1. Make Him your _____ **top** _____ **priority** _____.

"To undertake the disciplines is to take our activities - our lives - seriously and to suppose that the following of Christ is at least as big a challenge as playing the violin or jogging." Dallas Willard

Seek Him through His _____ **Word** _____.

Your **word** is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105

Be open with Him in _____ **prayer** _____.

"If we see needs met because we have asked God alone, our faith in God's presence and care will be greatly increased. But if we always tell others of the need, we will have little faith in God, and our entire spiritual life will suffer because of it." Dallas Willard

"**Keep on** asking, and you will receive what you ask for. **Keep on** seeking, and you will find. **Keep on** knocking, and the door will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7

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For Group Discussion

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

Introduction

Many of us are drifting through life. Letting life "happen" to us, instead of doing the work we were created to do. In order to avoid drifting, we must learn to value what God values. Throughout scripture we see that God values the relationship we have with Him.

Discussion Questions

1. Who are the three people in this world who love you the most? What have you done to invest in those relationships over the years?

2. Read Exodus 20:3 and Matthew 22:36-38. What do these passages tell us about the value we should place on God? How are these verses the same? How are they different?

God values His relationship with you. What are some ways God has demonstrated that He values a relationship with us? How do you personally demonstrate that you value a relationship with Him?

3. Two ways to build and maintain a strong relationship with God are Bible reading and prayer. Read Psalm 119:105. How has God's word been a directing force in your life? What are some things you are dealing with right now that you could seek answers for in God's word in the coming week?

Read Matthew 7:7. As in any relationship, communication is crucial. What are some prayer methods that enhance your ability to clearly communicate with God and patiently listen for His response?

Which of the prayer methods discussed earlier could you put in place in the coming week? What results would you expect from this change in the way you communicate with God?

4. In order to truly value God, we must show Him our love through obedience. Read John 14:21. What promises are made for those who show their love to God through obedience? Is it possible to be obedient to God's commandments without loving Him? What are the results of this kind of obedience?

What steps can you take this week to prioritize your relationship with God? What can you do to be sure your action steps are born out of your love for Him?

OUTREACH: GROUPS IN ACTION

A team traveling to Colombia needs your toys! (Small stuffed animals like beanie babies, happy meal toys, small balls) These will be passed out to over 1,200 children. Please bring them to the office during the week or the information counter at your campus, between now and June 4. Contact Kerry Carmichael at kcarmichael@eclife.org for more information.

Occasionally, we need groups to help with a funeral meal to help serve the family in need. Would your group be willing to sign up to help? Let us know if you would be willing to be on a list to call when a need arises. Contact Kerry Carmichael at kcarmichael@eclife.org for more information.

Action Step

Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming week.

My action steps are _____
_____.

I'm accountable for _____, and their action steps are _____
_____.

My memory verse is _____.

This coming week, I'm praying for:
