

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

DISCUSSION:

- Using the lemon illustration that Richard talked about, share with the group about a small object you cherish and why it holds significance for you. Discuss how being present allows you to fully appreciate the simple things in life.
- Reflect on what Richard said about living in a "distracted age." If you feel comfortable, discuss how distractions limit your ability to be present with loved ones, God, or even yourself.
- **Read Luke 10:38–40.** The sermon challenges the typical interpretation of the Martha and Mary story, reminding us that Martha wasn't simply the "bad sister" because she was busy. How were you encouraged by what you heard about Martha? In what ways can you relate to Martha? Mary? Which one are you drawn to more and why?
- Richard used the following quote in his message: "Listen to your life. See it for the fathomless mystery it is. In the boredom and pain of it, no less than in the excitement and gladness: touch, taste, smell your way to the holy and hidden heart of it, because in the last analysis all moments are key moments, and life itself is grace." How can you apply this quote to your own life? Can you identify "ordinary" moments that hold hidden meaning or grace?
- The message emphasizes developing several postures for "THIS" presence: desire, receptivity, slowing, and intentional practice. Discuss: Which posture resonates most with you? What practical steps can you take this week to cultivate that posture in your daily life?

Remember:

Whether you are connecting with your group online, over the phone, or in person, the five things that make small groups so transformative (Accountability, Guidance, Encouragement, Vulnerability, and Application) can STILL HAPPEN. Think about how these things are happening in your group!

