

# LIVE LIKE JESUS

## REALIGN MY PRIORITIES

**Viewing my time as an extension of Christ's Lordship and learning to reevaluate what I put my time and energy into.**

- Welcome, Overview
- Message
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This Week's Key Verse to Think About, Soak in, and Memorize:

*For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.*  
**Colossians 1:16**

More Resources to Explore!

See the Spiritual Growth Section of the Twin Cities Church website:

<https://www.twincities.church/spiritual-growth-live4>

Click on the "Realign My Priorities" picture to find many helpful resources.

# REALIGN MY PRIORITIES

In our fast-paced, achievement-driven world, it's easy to get swept up in the busyness of life. We fill our days with work, social events, entertainment, and personal goals—yet rarely stop to ask, *“Am I focusing on what really matters?”* When our priorities drift, we can end up stressed, burned out, and chasing things that never truly satisfy.

As followers of Jesus, we're called to live with intention—aligning our time, energy, and resources with God's will and purpose. Realigning our priorities isn't just about time management—it's about life stewardship. It's recognizing that everything we have—our time, talents, relationships, and resources—comes from God, and He's entrusted them to us for His glory and His kingdom.

When we bring our priorities in line with God's heart, something shifts. We begin to sense His direction more clearly. We respond more readily to His nudges. We let go of the pull toward temporary pleasures and instead live for what lasts forever. With eternity in mind, our daily choices take on deeper meaning—shaping not only our present, but our legacy. We move from being driven by the urgent to being anchored in the eternal, and that's where peace, joy, and lasting purpose are truly found.

## Biblical Insights on Priorities:

Scripture provides clear guidance on what should hold the highest priority in our lives:

- **Matthew 6:33:** *"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."*

This foundational verse emphasizes putting God's kingdom and His righteousness first in our lives. By placing God first, this helps order the rest of our life.

- **Colossians 3:2:** *"Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."*

This encourages us to focus on eternal realities rather than being solely consumed by temporal concerns.

- **1 John 2:15-17:** *"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever."*

This warns against prioritizing worldly desires over God. When we do this our heart chases after the wrong things which draws us away from God.

## **Zacchaeus and His Misaligned Priorities**

Zacchaeus, a wealthy tax collector in Jericho, gives us a vivid picture of a life with priorities completely out of step with God's. He was successful by the world's standards, but his fortune came through exploitation and dishonest gain. People knew him for his wealth, not his integrity. Like so many who chase status and security, Zacchaeus had climbed the ladder of success—only to discover it was leaning against the wrong wall.

Yet for all his riches, something inside him remained unsettled. Something was missing. So when Jesus came to town, Zacchaeus didn't just linger at the edges of the crowd—he ran ahead, abandoning dignity and decorum, and scrambled up a sycamore tree just to catch a glimpse. His outward actions revealed an inward hunger, a longing for something more than money could buy.

And that's when it happened. In the middle of the noise and excitement, Jesus stopped, looked up, and called Zacchaeus by name. In that moment, Zacchaeus' world shifted. One encounter with Jesus began to reorder his heart, his values, and his life—showing us what can happen when we're willing to let God realign our priorities.

**Luke 19:1-10:** *Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was very wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately! I must stay at your house today." So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner." But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."*

This encounter changed everything for Zacchaeus. One moment in Jesus' presence ignited a complete reordering of his heart. The man who once lived for money and status stood up and joyfully declared a new way of living—giving half of his wealth to the poor and repaying anyone he had cheated fourfold. Wealth no longer defined him. Jesus had become his greatest treasure and highest priority.

Zacchaeus' story reminds us that misplaced priorities aren't just a problem "back then"—they're a challenge for us today. We may not be tax collectors, but many of us chase success, comfort, recognition, or control at the expense of our spiritual health, our relationships, and our God-given purpose. We fill our lives with work, entertainment, and endless distractions while neglecting what truly matters.

Before meeting Jesus, Zacchaeus likely lived with loneliness, guilt, and a restless emptiness that no amount of wealth could cure. That's the cost of misaligned priorities: broken connection, compromised integrity, and a life that feels hollow no matter how much we achieve.

But here's the good news—like Zacchaeus, we're not stuck. Jesus still calls us by name. He still invites us to see our lives from His perspective and to reorder what matters: to seek His kingdom first, to value people over possessions, and to pursue purpose over performance.

Imagine the freedom of no longer chasing what can never satisfy. Picture your days shaped around what will outlast this life—loving God deeply, investing in people intentionally, and using your resources for eternal impact.

Now is the moment to take an honest look at your priorities. This spiritual practice—**Realign My Priorities**—is an invitation to trade hurry for holiness, distraction for devotion, and self-centered living for Kingdom-centered purpose. As we do, we'll step into the abundant life Jesus promised—a life marked by freedom, joy, and eternal significance.

# GROUP STUDY: Realign My Priorities

## Begin with Prayer and Silence

Gather as a group and say a quick prayer to invite the Holy Spirit to guide your time together. Then spend a moment in silence, expressing a desire to hear from God.

## Explore the Scriptures

1. Let's read Psalm 90:12. Take a moment to reflect on how you typically spend your time during the week. What does it reveal about what you value most? How can you invite God into your calendar and begin aligning your time with what matters most to Him?
2. Temporary distractions are everywhere—career success, approval from others, material comfort. What does 2 Corinthians 4:18 say about this? What tends to compete for your focus? What would it look like to shift your attention toward things of eternal significance?
3. Paul gives Timothy some advice on priority living in 1 Timothy 6:18–19. Zacchaeus's transformation was marked by radical generosity. How might living more open-handedly with your time, resources, or abilities help you walk more closely with Jesus and experience the "life that is truly life"?

## Read the Practice Together

Read through the practice on the next page together, and then answer these questions:

- Do you feel you understand the practice? Do you have any questions about it?
- How do you feel about practicing this, any concerns?

## Share Your Personal Action Plan with the Group

I will practice this on (day and time) \_\_\_\_\_

in this place (location) \_\_\_\_\_

## Close in Prayer

## **PRACTICE: Realign My Priorities**

When life gets full and fast, it's easy to lose sight of what matters most. This practice helps you slow down, clarify what you value most (in light of God's Word), and begin to align your time and energy around eternal priorities.

### **Step 1: Clarify What Matters**

Take time to identify and rank your core values—the things you believe are most important.

- List your top 8–10 values. (Examples: faith, family, generosity, success, comfort, kindness, recognition, love for others)
- Rank them in order of importance.
- Reflect: Does how you spend your time match what you say matters most? Where is there a gap between your values and your choices?

*“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.” —Proverbs 4:23*

### **Step 2: Assess Your Time**

Our calendars reveal our real priorities. Evaluate how you're currently spending your time.

- Do a time audit. Look at your past week. Where did your time go?
- Identify time wasters or distractions that pull you away from what matters (e.g., mindless scrolling, overwork, busyness).
- Highlight the things that already reflect kingdom values—keep and protect those.

*“Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity.” —Ephesians 5:15–16*

### **Step 3: Realign and Plan**

Now, create a plan that reflects your highest, God-given priorities.

- Set 2–3 weekly focus areas. These could be spending more time with God, serving others, investing in relationships, or resting well.
- Schedule intentionally. Block time on your calendar for these priorities.
- Pray for guidance each morning: “Lord, help me give my best time to what matters most.”

*“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” —Matthew 6:33*