

# *Hungry “Study”*

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- Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide.
- If you missed it, watch the sermon online [HERE](#).
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- As a leader you **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or prepare your own questions.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Opening Prayer:** (1-5 minutes)

*In light of what God is saying through this week’s message, here’s some suggestions of how your group can invite God into your time together.*

Thank the Lord for sending Jesus to live a life that shows us how we can be completely sustained by God. Pray that the Holy Spirit would expose our physical and spiritual cravings by teaching us how to access the spiritual nourishment of our Father! Finally pray for strength and patience as we learn to engage with several different spiritual disciplines!

### **Discussion:** (30 minutes)

#### What’s Going on This Week

This Sunday, Pastor Larry led us into our fourth week of the series titled *Hungry*. Pastor Larry pointed us directly to the scriptures, the Word of God. There are many of us that have received God’s gift of a new life in Jesus but are often malnourished and stunted in our spiritual growth. How can we be nourished and grow spiritually? By reading and studying the Scriptures. God has given us the Bible so we can hear directly from Him and His Son Jesus.

“When we get alone with God, we grow our hunger for God and strengthen our soul by coming to the only one who can satisfy!” – Pastor Larry Vold

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## Suggested Questions

**Check-In:** *Review Matthew 4:1-4; 6:5-18; 26:36-56; 17:1-2; Mark 1:35:* Last week, our group discussion revolved around the how we often hunger for the wrong things. Instead we are to find what we hunger for in God and practicing solitude to hear from God to help us be aware of God’s presence, reviewing our days with gratitude, paying attention to our emotions, praying for one feature of our day, and looking forward for a new tomorrow. What steps did you take toward practicing solitude in your day? What stood out to you as you practiced this discipline?

- *Read James 1:18-25, 1 Peter 2:2-3, John 1:1-5; 2 Timothy 3:10-17:* Pastor Larry begins the sermon in James 1:18-25. In this passage, Pastor Larry points out three things; a simple premise, the top priority and the amazing promise. First, we will look at the simple premise, what gives life sustains life. Many of us have received the new birth in Jesus Christ but we do not rely on the Word of God to give us the nourishment we need for spiritual growth. Do you have a regular time studying God's Word? If so, what does that look like? If not, what are some hurdles you face?
  
- *Read Isaiah 55:10-11; Hebrews 4:12; Psalm 1:2:* Pastor Larry reminded us that our top priority should be to give God's Word its rightful place. This top priority has two components for us to look at, we need to **listen** to God's Word and we need to **obey** it. Listening opens the door for God's word to do its work and often we have to get rid of things in our life so we can received what God is revealing to us. Can you recall a time in your life where God's word spoke directly into your situation, what was it? Did you have to get rid of something before God' word became clear? While listening can be difficult it can be even tougher to obey what God is trying to tell you. When was a time that you knew you needed to obey God's teaching?
  
- *Reread James 1:18-25:* Pastor Larry then gave us the amazing promise that God makes. The promise is a blessing for those who listen and obey God's word. In obeying GO's word we need not only listen but also remember what it says. What better way to listen and remember than to spend time in His Word on a regular basis. Do you have a specific time in your day you spend in God's Word? When and what does that look like for you? If you do not have a regular study time, where in your day can you start to set aside time to be in God's Word?
  - A Simple Premise: What gives life, sustains life
  - The Top Priority: Give God's Word its rightful place
  - The Amazing Promise: A blessing for those who listen and obey God's Word

**Closing Prayer:** (5-15 minutes)

*In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's some suggestions of what your group could talk about with God in prayer.*

Thank our Heavenly Father for sending His son Jesus to present us an opportunity to access God's spiritual nourishment! Pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to teach us how to offer our cravings and desires as a holy and pleasing sacrifice as we seek to fulfill our souls by being in communion with God!

**THROUGHOUT THE WEEK**

**- Find out how to pray for two people in your group this week!** Encourage them to take some time in their day to practice solitude with the Lord! Identify the things that prevent you from being still and develop a strategy to minimize your obstacles!

**-Engage in a fast from food on Mondays alongside the rest of 3Crosses!** Continue to remind yourself that fasting is to long for our heavenly home, loosen the grip of sin, express a need to God, and anticipate God's movement! Perhaps combine solitude in your practice of fasting and be prepared to share your experience!

**- Home Communities will be on break during the Summer!** Sign-ups for season 3 of Home Communities begins late August! If you have any questions, feel free to email AJ at [avanegas@3crosses.org](mailto:avanegas@3crosses.org)