



I WILL MAKE YOU

PRACTICING Jesus

SERMON
STUDY

09.22.2024

Leader Corner

Practicing Jesus

I Will Make You
(Formation)

2 Peter 1:3-9

Welcome Back! Throughout this Practicing Jesus series we will be invited and challenged to truly follow and put into practice the things Jesus did. Each week, this resource will guide your community experience. This week digs into who we are becoming. We are all being formed into a particular shape. The problem is that we allow so many things OTHER than Jesus to form and shape us. Saint Benedict said, "We become either agents of God's healing and liberating grace, or carriers of the sickness of the world." This week will help us focus on being intentionally formed by Jesus.

Main Idea: We are all being formed intentionally or unintentionally. Be intentionally formed by Jesus.

Main Practice: Inventory the many different influences in your life.

Main Teaching: 2 Peter 1:3-9

A few more housekeeping items:

- *Pro Tip:* Pray for each person in your group by name and then send them an encouraging text.
- Be sure to leave ample time to do the "with Practice" section as this week's practice will take some time to do well.

As You Begin Your Group Time:

How did last week's practice of carving out daily time with Jesus go? What did you learn or enjoy? How will you continue this practice? Is there anything from your journal you'd like to share with the group?

Connect with Prayer & Praise

First, have someone pray the following over the group:

O God, our Father, renew our spirits and draw our hearts to you, that our work may not be to us a burden but a delight; and give us such love toward you as may sweeten all our obedience. Help us that we may serve you with the cheerfulness and gladness of children, delighting ourselves in you and rejoicing in all that is to the honor of your name. Amen (adapted from The Book of Worship)

Next, as a group watch, sing, or read the lyrics of the song, "Follow Me" by Casting Crowns.

with Principle

"You've been spiritually formed since before you came out of your mother's womb . . . You've been formed . . . You're being formed . . . You will be formed in the days to come . . . The question (we have to) sit with is this: WHO am I becoming?" (Practicing the Way, pages 70-71)

1. Read 2 Peter 1:3-9 as a group.
 - a. Review your journal. What did God reveal to you through scripture and Sunday's sermon?
 - b. As you hear the list of attributes in this passage, which ones have you experienced before?
2. Let's take a few moments and think about our daily life.
 - a. What habits do you keep in your daily and weekly life? How might they be shaping you?
 - b. Specifically, what is a daily habit that helps you increasingly connect with Jesus?
 - c. Conversely, what is a habit (or habits) that keep you from connecting with Jesus?
3. C.S. Lewis claims that ALL of us are on a trajectory to either life or death, and the farther we follow that trajectory, the more pronounced its effects on us become. "We are either becoming immortal horrors or everlasting splendours." In a moment of honesty, what does your trajectory look like over the last 2-3 months?
4. Before moving on to the "with Practice" section, take a moment to pause and pray the group prayer again.

with Practice

This week's practice is to inventory some of the major influences that are forming you. If we are able to understand our everyday influences, we can then shift and consider how they help move us toward or away from Jesus.

- As a group **pray** and **invite** the Holy Spirit to silence any distractions and to illuminate the eyes of your heart.
- **Answer** honestly and non-judgementally and be prepared to share some of your findings with the group.
- take some time to **journal** in the "Discuss & Practice" sections of the Practicing Jesus Journal.

Habits: what habits make up your everyday life?

- Morning routine:
- Daily activities:
- Evening routine:
- Weekend activities:

How do you think your habits are shaping you as a person?

Relationships: What relationships make up most of your life?

- Family:
- Friends:
- Work:
- Community:
- Other:

How are these people shaping you as a person? What kind of person do you become when around these people?

Stories: What are the stories you have come to believe?

- About God?
- About yourself?
- About real happiness?
- About the meaning of life?
- What are the core stories of your life?

How are these stories impacting your life?

Experiences: How have I experienced life in the past week? (Circle any and everything you've experienced this week)

Negative Experiences:

Stress Outrage Disconnection Debt Hurry Pride Lying Laziness Anxiety Distraction Dirty speech Alcohol fear Numbness Sarcasm Addiction Substance-Abuse Exhaustion Impulsiveness Jealousy Discouragement Contempt Lust Anger Loneliness Pornography Irritation Isolation Overwork Impatience Shame Materialism Resentment

Positive Experiences:

Love Unhurried Living Equity Restfulness Joy Simplicity-of-Life Diversity Diligence Peace Calm Trust A Sense of Purpose Patience Generosity Acceptance A clear sense of direction Kindness Contentment Authenticity Creativity Gentleness Freedom Honesty Growth Faithfulness Warmth and Affection Integrity Harmony Self-Control Relational Connection Vulnerability Community Faith Hope Belonging Compassion

What patterns or themes do you notice?

How have all the circled experiences shaped you this week?

Are there some specific habits or relationships that contributed to your overall experience this week?

**(Practice adapted from the "Practicing the Way Course Guide," John Mark Comer)*

For Further Study

Study Romans 12:1-2, Colossians 3:1-17 and continue to examine how and by whom you are being formed.

"Practicing the Way" reading plan:

- read pages 64-117 "Goal #2: Become like Him"

Other Resources:

- The Daily Examin App
- "Identity: Who You Really Are in Christ" Anthony Walker & Michelle Eagle