



"Margin in Everyday Life"

Margin Series

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Margin is the AMOUNT AVAILABLE beyond what is NECESSARY.

- It's the difference between what you HAVE & what you NEED.

"As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. 'Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!' " Luke 10:38-40

- If Satan, our spiritual enemy, can't make us BAD, he'll try to make us BUSY.

"For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." Matthew 7:13-14

"Do not be conformed to the pattern of this world but instead, be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - His good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:2

"Martha, Martha,' the Lord answered, 'you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.'" Luke 10:41-42

What happens when we live a margin-less life?

- 1) When margin DECREASES, your stress INCREASES.
- 2) As your margin DECREASES, your relational intimacy also DECREASES.
 - Your relational intimacy decreases, not just with people, but also with GOD.
 - *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:28-29*
 - *"Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10*

Assignment this week: For 5 MINUTES each day, DON'T do anything.

- *"The Lord will guide you always. He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail." Isaiah 58:11*

C3 Group Questions

Accountability: Were you at church on Sunday to grow & learn? Did you read/listen to the Bible & pray this week on a regular basis? If so, share what stood out to you in your time with God?

Ice Breaker: Margin is the amount available beyond what is necessary. Explain what margin looks like in 1 area of your life right now.

Review: What one thing stood out to you (either helpful, insightful or troubling) from the weekend's message?

Group Discussion:

Read Luke 10:38-42. What are some of the things that currently cause you the most stress? How is that stress affecting your life?

What are some specific ways you can begin the process of reducing stress in your life?

When margin decreases, your relational intimacy decreases. How have you seen your intimacy with God & others decrease as a result of not having margin in your life?

A lack of margin is a reflection of a lack of faith. In what areas of your life do you need to place more faith in God? A lack of margin is also a reflection of idolatry. What are some things you are placing before God? How will you go about putting God first?

Read Matthew 11:28-29, Psalm 46:10, & Isaiah 58:11. How have you found rest & comfort thru Christ? How did that rest ultimately lead to satisfaction?

Why do you think it is so difficult for many of us to rest & be still before God?

How can this group pray for you this week? Who in this group can you pray for this week?

Next Steps: (*"Do not merely listen to the word.....Do what it says."* James 1:22)

- Take time to rest this week with Christ. This time could consist of praying, reading the Bible, or just enjoying some quiet time alone. Remove the distractions for a little while & allow Him to renew your soul & mind.
- Reduce some of the stress in your life this week. Identify 1 or more things that are creating too much stress & create a plan to reduce that stress. Not only write down your plan of action, but have someone hold you accountable as you carry it out.