

## BELIEVE SERIES Lesson Fourteen

### SINGLE-MINDEDNESS

#### VIDEO TEACHING NOTES

**Key Question:** How do I keep my \_\_\_\_\_ on Jesus amidst distraction?

**Key Idea:** I focus on God and his \_\_\_\_\_ for my life.

**Key Verse:** "But \_\_\_\_\_ first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33)

**(Key Application)** \_\_\_\_\_ lay your calendar and decisions before God for direction.

**(Key Application)** Make decisions based on Christian \_\_\_\_\_.

**(Key Application)** Try the \_\_\_\_\_ Day Planner.

**(Key Application)** Learn to say "no" to the things you \_\_\_\_\_ be doing.

#### GROUP DISCUSSION

*As a group, discuss your thoughts and feelings about the following declarations. Which statements are easy to declare with certainty? Which are more challenging and why?*

- I desire Jesus Christ to be first in my life.
- I see every aspect of my life and work as service to God.
- I spend time each day reading God's Word and praying.
- I value a simple lifestyle over one cluttered with activities and material possessions.

*Choose 2-3 questions that will lead to best discussion about the Key Idea*

1. Many people are tempted to compartmentalize their faith rather than allow God to influence every aspect of their lives. Discuss some of the reasons for this.
2. In what ways can materialism be the enemy of single-mindedness?
3. Which area of your life (relationships, finances, work, family, etc.) is hardest to submit to God's will and guidance?
4. How have you experienced the benefits of single-mindedness?

*Read Matthew 6:19-24 and choose 1-2 questions to discuss.*

1. How has seeking and serving God first brought his blessing upon your work, relationships, family and finances?
2. Discuss why it is tempting to "store up treasures on earth."
3. Discuss what it specifically means to "store up treasures in heaven."

#### OTHER PASSAGES

Exodus 20:2-3

Deut. 6:1-9; 29:16-30:20

Matthew 6:19-33; 14:22-36

Philippians 3:1-14

2 Chronicles 20:1-30

2 John 8:12-30

Acts 5:12-42

Romans 12:1-2

Colossians 3:1-4, 15-17

#### CLOSING PRAYER

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### PERSONAL QUESTIONS FOR NEXT WEEK

Read Believe, Chapter 16: Biblical Community and/or the following passages:

Genesis 2:4-25	Eph. 2:11-22; 4:2; 5:21	Eccl. 4:8-12
Acts 2:1-4, 42-47	Exodus 25:1-9; 40:1-35	John 13:1-17
Acts: 4:32-37	1 Cor. 16:19	2 Chron. 7:1-3
Acts 18:1-3, 18-19, 24-26		Galatians 5:13; 6:2
Neh. 2:11-3:32; 6:15	1 Thess. 5:9-11	Heb. 10:19-25; 13:1-3, 15-16
Rom. 12:4-5, 12:10; 13:8; 15:5-7, 14; 16:3-4		
1 John 1:1-7; 2:7-11; 3:16-18; 4:7-21		

Answer the following questions

1. The passage from Ecclesiastes 4 describes a relationship between two people. Why then, does the Teacher say “a cord of three strands” is not quickly broken?
2. As you read the passage from Ephesians 2, look for the differences between two dwelling places for God: the temple and the New Testament church. What barriers are there in the two places? Who is allowed into each place? What is the cornerstone of each place?
3. Imagine what it would have been like to be a member of the early church after Pentecost. Would you have wanted to be a part of that community? Why or why not? In what ways should the early church be a model for churches today?
4. As you read the passages from Hebrews 13, Acts 18, 1 Corinthians 16, Romans 16, and 1 John 1-3, ponder the emphasis and importance placed on hospitality. Why do you think it was so important to the early church? Is it still important today? Why or why not?
5. God’s Word places a high value on Christian fellowship. How important is this value to you right now? What difference is it making in your life?

**Key Verse:** “All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:44-47)

**Key Idea:** I fellowship with Christians to accomplish God’s purposes in my life, in the lives of others and in the world.

Personal Application

1. How would this practice express itself in your life?
2. What visible attributes can be found in someone who practices biblical community?
3. What is impeding your ability to experience biblical community? How can you overcome this obstacle?
4. What action step can you take this week to develop biblical community?