

## **“Be Still: Ready and Responsive”**

**Growth Group Guide**

**March 29, 2026**

### **WELCOME** *(Connecting with each other)*

Do you have a favorite story in the Bible of someone or something coming back to life? Share about it now and why it is meaningful to you.

### **WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYER** *(Connecting with God)*

Open in prayer inviting the Spirit to lead your time together. Praise the Lord that He is ready to help us anytime, to bring life wherever we need it. He is giving, righteous, and merciful!

Isaiah 55:1 (AMPC) Wait and listen, everyone who is thirsty! Come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Yes, come, buy [priceless, spiritual] wine and milk without money and without price [simply for the self-surrender that accepts the blessing].

Psalms 116:1-2, 5, 7 (ESV) I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. ... Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful. ... Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.

“[God], I glorify You because no human problem, however hopeless or impossible, is too hard for You. You are able to give life to the dead and call into being that which does not exist.” (Meyers, Ruth. 31 Days of Praise. Day 4. Kindle.)

### **WORD** *(Letting God speak to us)*

1. **Read Luke 7:8 NIV.** What qualities does the centurion say people have who operate well when they are being led?
2. **Read Luke 7:11-12 NIV.** It’s amazing that after a long day of travel Jesus and His crowd arrive at the perfect time to meet this funeral procession! Verses like John 5:19 and 6:39 tell us Jesus followed the Father’s lead. How did Jesus model the qualities you discovered in question #1 so the events were able to occur right on time? What can we learn from His example and these events?
3. Can you imagine the clash of these two groups meeting on the road? Do you think God had a purpose in these two completely different groups meeting? If so, what might He want to compare and contrast?
4. **Read Luke 7:13-15 NIV.** Jesus sees who the Father sent Him to - the widow. He’s moved by compassion for her and steps forward placing His hand on the bier. What would you have thought if you had been in either one of the groups, especially knowing that touching the bier would cause someone to become unclean according to Jewish law?
5. When Jesus touched the bier, those carrying it abruptly stopped and stood still. It could have been shock, but there’s no recorded

outbursts. How does their reaction to Jesus encourage us to be still when Jesus touches an unexpected area in our life?

6. Being still by living ready and responsive brings a halt to human effort and makes room for God to work. Have you seen times where human effort shrunk the space for God to work; or conversely, have you seen God’s work expand because He was relied on? Share your experience.
7. The Bible calls independent human effort the flesh. **Read Romans 8:6.** What does a life lived fleshly produce?
8. For Christians, we can live dependently. From Romans 8:6, what term describes that sort of life? What does that life produce?
9. When we live fleshly our experience will be like the young man lying dead on the bier. Like the halting of the bearers to Jesus’s touch, how does following their example help us be led out of our dead, dry fleshly living to a more regular experience of living by the Spirit?
10. The young man, now resurrected, returns to daily life. How might he have lived differently afterward? How might this encourage us as we live by the Spirit more and more each day?
11. **Read Luke 7:16-17 NIV.** What is the people’s reaction to seeing life come where death was before? How does this possibly inspire you to live the stillness qualities of being ready and responsive to Jesus?

### **WALK** *(Living out God’s purposes)*

- ✓ **One Big Idea: To be still is to be ready and responsive to Jesus’ lead.** Our compassionate, gracious, and merciful God loves to bring life to dry, dead, thirsty places. It’s who He is: Life itself! What a joy to drop our dead fleshly ways of living in exchange for the bountiful, satisfying life of Jesus to, for, and through us. How is God talking to you about a place(s) in your life that need His life-giving touch? Do you feel ready for it? Do you feel you could respond to His lead for your freedom, healing, and joy? If it’s a struggle, ask Him to help you “self-surrender to accept the blessing” as it says in Isaiah 55:1 from the Worship Through Prayer section of this guide. If you are ready, by the power of the Spirit, let your readiness turn to responsiveness and begin to receive all the LIFE He has for you where you need it. Give Him permission to help you live newly alive in this area day by day.

### **WORLD** *(Embracing God’s heart for others)*

Boise Bible is praising God for his provision in key areas. First, God abundantly blessed them with funds for much needed repairs! They raised \$580,000 which was \$180,000 more than expected. Second, several of their graduates have already taken ministry and missions positions. Third, many of their 1-2 year students have upgraded to 4-year programs! Please continue to pray for funds to carry on the work, faculty who pour their lives into students, staff who support the work, and churches who are looking for qualified leaders. Also, Dr. Charles Crane who served the college for 17 years as their 8<sup>th</sup> President, went home to be with Jesus in January. Please pray for comfort and joy for those sad of heart at his loss.

*[Copies of this Guide are available at <https://thurston.church/resources>]*