

Alternate Routes

Hunger and Thirst (Week 1)

LifeNotes

TALK IT OVER

Main Idea

Life is found and truly lived when we take the alternate route of righteousness.

Key Scriptures

You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it. Matthew 7:13-14 NLT

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. He said: Matthew 5:1-2 NIV

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Matthew 5:6 NIV

The bookends of blessing and fulfillment only come when we hunger and thirst for the right things.

How do we apply this?

1. Embrace the pain of the present

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. 2 Corinthians 12:9a

2. Keep the end in mind from the beginning.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Hebrews 12:1-2a

Start talking.

- Describe a time where Siri and/or Google Maps would have helped you out.
- How have alternate routes been helpful and/or not helpful in the past.
- Why is it often easier to follow the crowd?

Start thinking.

- Read Matthew 7:13-14. Why is the way narrow? Why not make the way easier and obvious for everyone?
- Read Matthew 5:1-2. What was it about that day and about Jesus that led so many to stop what they were doing and listen to him?

- What was the cost for those gathered to stopping and listening to Jesus?
- Read Matthew 5:6. What idea was Jesus turning upside down? How would you define "righteousness"?

Start sharing.

- Based on the time you spend, what does it appear you "hunger and thirst" for?
- What is the personal benefit of hungering and thirsting for righteousness?
- What are the obstacles pulling you away from that?

Start doing.

- Read 2 Corinthians 12:9a. What is the pain God wants to use to refine you? How can you embrace it?
- Read Hebrews 12:1-2a. What does it look like for you to "fix" your eyes on Jesus? How will that result in greater righteousness?

Closing Prayer.

Jesus, thank you for calling me to an alternate route. Give me the courage to step away from the broad road and its path. Help me to passionately pursue a right relationship with you while embracing difficult seasons and keeping my focus on you. I trust you to have your way in me.