

## INTRO

This season during Family Gathers, we're focusing on episodes from Bluey and trying to discern similar themes and lessons that are also presented in Scripture.

**Discuss around your group - what are some of animated shows or cartoons you grew up watching? Or what is a show you constantly watch with nephews, kids, or grandkids?**

## IDEA 1

The best things in life are most often cultivated, planned out, and invested in. Boring things are important too. Boring things are formative; they discipline us - and when we stay with them - the great things, the unexpected things, the peace that passes all understanding - they happen!

**Have you ever trained or practiced a skill (music, sports, arts, communication, writing, etc.) that required lots of repetition and routine to master? What was the fruit of that?**

**What are some *disciplines* or *practices* of following Jesus you at times find "boring" and why?**

**Why is the cultivation, planning, and investment in the "ordinary" important for one's relationship with Jesus?**

## IDEA 2

One of the things I've learned is that in God's Kingdom, the greater our intimacy with King Jesus, the greater our spiritual authority becomes. But that authority, which is not boring - needs to be activated and cultivated. Intimacy is what expands our authority in God.

**How do you normally cultivate intimacy with Jesus? What are some of the new ways you are being invited to cultivate intimacy?**

**Why do you think God demands intimacy before he grants us authority and power?**

## SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Intimacy is what expands our authority in God!

You've got to cultivate this.....

*You must seek His Face, not just His Hands.*

*You must seek His Face, not just an experience.*

*You must seek His Face, not just a revelatory experience in dreams.*

*You must seek His Face, not just an answer to that desperate prayer request.*

Jesus, when He walked the earth and ministered would himself do this - going to the top of a mountain to spend time with His heavenly father in prayer. He set the example, and we follow.

**Go around the room and discuss which starting point you're more tempted to seek as a group before seeking God's face. Try to expand on what this looks like for each of you. Then proceed to pray to God as a group. Pray to cultivate intimacy.**

## NEXT STEPS

For Daniel - Intimacy occupied the boring spaces. We read about the adventures, the interpretation of dreams, the protection from the lion, his friends being saved in the furnace.....all exciting things to read.....but when you read between the lines of the book you realize that Daniel didn't just wait for things to happen—he took appropriate steps to be ready for anything. He kept up his routine of praying and worshiping God and spent plenty of time studying and reflecting on what he had learned.

**As you go about this week, consider the *two* most essential but also hardest practices to cultivate intimacy - *prayer*, and *fasting*. Choose one to focus on this week to cultivate intimacy in the "boring and ordinary spaces."**

**If it's *prayer*, consider Rob's practice of setting two chairs facing each other.**

**If it's *fasting*, consider one day this week to skip a meal or to fast for a full day. Whatever level you're at in your faith journey.**