



# SOLITUDE 04

ENCOUNTER WITH GOD

## Tonight's Session will run as follows:

- 7.00-7.40 Evening meal and introductions
- 7.45-8.00 Opening Reflection
- 8.00-8.50 Bible Study and Discussion
- 8.50-9.00 Closing Prayer

## ID SPECIAL NEXT WEEK – ON CHURCH PLANTING



ST ANDREWS  
WESTCLIFF ON SEA



In time for next week, please listen to the following sermon:

*"The Cost of Mission"*

— Tim Keller

There will be a bible study and Q&A on Church Planting next week! See the resource centre: [linktr.ee/stjohnsID](https://linktr.ee/stjohnsID)

## Have you booked on to Belchamps 2025?



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Sign up to  
Belchamps!



## OPENERS (10mins)

- In what way has your thinking changed because of this study on solitude?
- What continues to be the biggest barrier to time spent alone with God?

## BIBLE STUDY (25mins)

### PART A

#### Read Mark 1:32-39

Understanding this passage

1. What's going on both before and after Jesus' time on his own in prayer?  
See v32-34 and v38-39.
2. Analyse v35. What, precisely, did Jesus do to get time alone with God?  
Clue: There are four verbs (doing words) in that verse.
3. For how long did Jesus go off to pray? (v36-37 might give you a clue)
4. What is Jesus' decision in 38? NB: It's not an easy one

### PART B:

#### Going deeper...

1. Jesus' decision in v38 is not an **easy** one  
Jesus' decision in v38 is not a **lazy** one (see v.39)  
Jesus' decision in v38 is not a **selfish** one  
So what has come from his time away with the Lord?
2. "Everyone is looking for you!" said the disciples, after their search.  
What do you think those disciples learnt from this episode?  
And what do you think we need to learn too?

## DISCUSSION (25mins)

Each of these ideas came up in the video this week:

**1. So much of our time and energy is spent on:**

**EITHER:        Worrying about the criticism of others**

**OR:                Desiring the attention and praise of others**

Is that true? And if so, how might our relationship with God in the quiet place actually begin to change this for us?

**2. "We do not go into the desert to escape people but to learn how to find them."**

**— Thomas Merton**

Are you in danger of becoming a hermit!? How might our practice of solitude actually make us more loving and life-giving for those around us?

**3. "You rarely find any person who has made great progress in the spiritual life who did not at some point have much time in solitude and silence."**

**— Dallas Willard**

Having spent some time looking at the life of Jesus, particularly. Can you agree with this quote? What might this mean for us?

## PRAY AND PRACTICE

**Keep going!**

- See module handbook p48-51 for more ideas how you can practice solitude
- For a great podcast to keep this topic alive search for the "Rule of life" podcast by John Mark Comer and there are 6 episodes on the subject of solitude and many others that will be helpful too

**Pray together, for each other and for your ongoing life of time in the quiet with God**