

DEEP



WIDE

v GROUP STUDY



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Deep & Wide: vGroup Study

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# INTRODUCTION

Followers of Jesus have and must always wrestle with the tension of focusing inward and simultaneously turning outward. Many Christians want to grow and be spiritually healthy, and so, their sole focus is on their spiritual formation and discipleship. These believers want to go deep. At the same time, many Christians also want to share the life-changing message of Jesus with others, and so, their sole focus is on evangelism. These believers want to go wide.

What we see in the example of Jesus, however, is both. Jesus modeled for his disciples and for us what it looks like to go both deep and wide. Imagine how our lives would look different if we had a dual and equally-focused emphasis on both our spiritual growth and our evangelistic efforts. As we launch Deep & Wide, we're first going to look at the example of Jesus and see how we retreat and release, how we focus on who we are becoming in Jesus, and how we invite others into Jesus.

- How do you tend to lean? Is your normal focus more on going deep or on going wide?
  
- Why do you think you tend to lean in the direction you do?
  
- How have you tried in the past to manage the tension of going both deep and wide?

*<sup>12</sup>In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. <sup>13</sup>And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles: <sup>14</sup>Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, <sup>15</sup>and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, <sup>16</sup>and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.*

*<sup>17</sup>And he came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, <sup>18</sup>who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. <sup>19</sup>And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all.*

Luke 6:12-19

- In order, describe what Jesus does in this story. Why is this sequence so important to Jesus?
- What is the significance of Jesus going out to the mountain to pray? Why is the location strategic for Jesus?
- Why did Jesus pray to the Father? Why was prayer the most important thing Jesus could have done?
- Jesus, however, doesn't just spend time with the Father. What does he do after prayer and why were these activities just as important?

Jesus understood the importance of going deep and wide. His retreating to the Father fueled his release to ministry. Jesus understood that he wouldn't be able to minister adequately to people without the empowerment of the Father. So, Jesus begins with silence, solitude, and prayer. He spends time with the Father and seeks his wisdom. Upon doing this, Jesus performs two important actions—he chooses his disciples and ministers to the people.

This, however, isn't the only time Jesus does this. Before turning to application, let's quickly look at other examples of Jesus going deep and wide.

*<sup>1</sup>And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness <sup>2</sup>for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry.*

Luke 4:1-2

*<sup>14</sup>And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. <sup>15</sup>And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.*

Luke 4:14-15

*<sup>15</sup>But now even more the report about him went abroad, and great crowds gathered to hear him and to be healed of their infirmities. <sup>16</sup>But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.*

Luke 5:15-16



- As we begin Deep & Wide, what is one action you know you will need to do to go both deep and wide?

Close your time together committing to go deep and wide and committing to hold one another accountable on this journey.