



**GREATER**  
**Part 2: Defining Moments**

Sermon Small Group Questions  
Speaker: Pastor Dave Patterson

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

- This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. After considering the needs of your group, you may choose one of the following options:
  1. one section of questions
  2. one or two questions from each section
- Feel free to adapt the format to meet the needs of your group. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, add Scripture and ask suitable questions. Remember that this is only a guide.
- Personal application is key to everyone's growth and should be included in every discussion. When asked how he or she intends to apply a certain principle a group member may say, "I need to spend more time in the Bible and in prayer." It is important for you to help group members make applications that are more specific and commit to a specific plan of action by asking, for example, "How are you going to begin?" An example is to get up 30 minutes earlier each morning, spending 15 minutes reading the Bible and 10 minutes in prayer. Encourage each group member to be accountable to the group for personal progress at the next meeting.
- As the leader your goal is to help bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their need for personal life change. Ultimately you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.

## INTRODUCTION

In life, we all get stuck. It is too easy to go the path of least resistance when these times come. Frankly, the "off-ramps" are always there. We need to be ready spiritually and emotionally to make a divinely-aligned decision when a defining moment comes.

[Philippians 3.13-14]

*No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.*

### **Defining Moments**

How do we get on the road to greater? Jesus calls us to it...

[John 14:12 NIV84]

*I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do **even greater things** than these, because I am going to the Father.*

Here is a both practical and symbolic example of obedience and sacrifice that is required for all of us to step into something greater:

[1 Kings 19.19-21]

*<sup>19</sup> So Elijah went and found Elisha son of Shaphat plowing a field. There were twelve teams of oxen in the field, and Elisha was plowing with the twelfth team. Elijah went over to him and threw his cloak across his shoulders and then walked away. <sup>20</sup> Elisha left the oxen standing there, ran after Elijah, and said to him, "First let me go and kiss my father and mother good-bye, and then I will go with you!" Elijah replied, "Go on back, but think about what I have done to you." <sup>21</sup> So Elisha returned to his oxen and slaughtered them. He used the wood from the plow to build a fire to roast their flesh. He passed around the meat to the townspeople, and they all ate. Then he went with Elijah as his assistant.*

## MESSAGE

***Defining moments look different for all of us, and there's not need for comparison or condemnation.***

***Obedience often takes you down before it takes you up!***

**What burning the plow means:**

Giving up something of meaning, security, or emotional connection; stepping into uncertainty; a decision to follow Jesus that has an immediate decision or price tag connected to it; cutting ties

**Burning the Plow:****1. Eliminating our options to go back.**

This looks like stepping away with no guarantees or options. This is faith-based!

**2. Responding to a divine invitation that is beyond our control.**

The greater thing is grace. You are the unassuming "plow boy," when God encounters you and initiates a call.

**3. Recognizing there is a window of time to respond to the opportunity.**

*chronos* (time that consistently ticks away) vs, *chairo*s (favorable window of time)

In this opportunity, we "burn the plow." We need to respond quickly.

**4. Carrying the potential of eliminating or redefining our relationships.**

When something shifts in our spirit, we come to a point of decision: Will the response to God keep placing us in the right direction?

**5. Releasing us from the "old things," so God can do the GREATER things!**

Obedience can often take us through "the curve of confusion" (valleys and mountains, always ascending and increasing), in order to receive the new thing. Be careful not to get too impressed with the old ways. Stay flexible in the presence of God.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1. What future do we forfeit, when we settle for “good enough?”**
- 2. In your faith journey, what have you looked at as loss, instead a key to unlocking your future? (In other words, what was a “plow that you had to burn?”)**
- 3. Which side of the plow-burning experience are you on now? (walked through it, walking through it now, or seeing it approaching). Explain.**
- 4. Who is going with you through this season of faith? Are you aligning yourself in covenant relationships that will carry you through the future? (Do you need to "love anyone less by comparison" because of the call on your life?)**
- 5. What is something old that you need to release and some new mantle that God is presenting you with?**