

"Big Picture Faith"

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 and ministry, there are seasons. There are seasons to run hard and seasons to slow down. There are times to push through and times to breathe. It is biblical to take sabbath rest in order to be more fruitful. God will give you a grace to last the long haul through obedience to God's principles of rest.

MESSAGE

[2 Corinthians 12:8-10]

⁸ *Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away.*

⁹ *Each time he said, "My grace is all you need ("My grace is sufficient"). My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. ¹⁰ That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

[Exodus 23:10-11]

“Plant and harvest your crops for six years, ¹¹ but let the land be renewed and lie uncultivated during the seventh year. Then let the poor among you harvest whatever grows on its own. Leave the rest for wild animals to eat. The same applies to your vineyards and olive groves.

[Colossians 2:16-17]

So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths. ¹⁷ For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality.

Three Thoughts on Big Picture Faith

1. Consider your unique calling. (knowledge, discovery, & lifestyle)

[John 15:14-16]

*¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. ¹⁵ I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ **You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that** you might go and bear fruit —fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.*

THE FATHER'S HOUSE MISSION STATEMENT

“The Father's House exist to influence as many people as possible to; Know Christ, find purpose and live in His presence”

2. Navigate each season with the grace that is available.

[1 Corinthians 2:3-5]

I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power.

[Philippians 4:11-13]

For I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in

*any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.
13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.*

3. (When you've suffered loss or setback) Move forward according to the original calling.

[Acts 27:22]

22 But take courage! None of you will lose your lives, even though the ship will go down.

23 For last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me, 24 and he said, 'Don't be afraid, Paul, for you will surely stand trial before Caesar! What's more, God in his goodness has granted safety to everyone sailing with you.'

25 So take courage! For I believe God. It will be just as he said. 26 But we will be shipwrecked on an island."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When was the last time you were able to unplug and truly relax?
2. How does sabbath rest actually open up a door to fruitfulness?
3. How are you serving: through guilt and legalism, or through your love toward God?
4. Can you articulate your calling? If yes, share it. If no, spend this week seeking clarity of it.
5. When was the last time you allowed the call of God to push you forward?
6. Has anyone experienced loss or setback? Pray out for the peace of God and the passion that accompanied the original call of God for your lives.
7. What needs to be rebuilt in your life?