

# Beyond Survival: Boundaries

January 14 & 15, 2023

*All Bible passages are quoted from the New International Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.*

**BIG IDEA: The healthiest people are those who set and maintain boundaries.**

**Mark 9:42-47** | <sup>42</sup> “If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup> If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. ... <sup>45</sup> And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. ... <sup>47</sup> And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell,

**You may survive without boundaries, but living beyond survival requires you to:**

**1. Draw CLEAR lines.**

**2. Learn to say “NO.”**

**Say “YES” to the right things.**

**3 Things to say “YES” to:**

- **Forgiveness**
- **90-Day Tithe Challenge**
- **Small Groups**

**3. Remind YOURSELF and communicate your values to OTHERS.**

**Matthew 12:46-50** | <sup>46</sup> While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. <sup>47</sup> Someone told him, “Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.” <sup>48</sup> He replied to him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” <sup>49</sup> Pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. <sup>50</sup> For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

**Proverbs 15:1** | A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

**BEYOND SURVIVAL HACK: Let your ‘yes’ be ‘yes’ and your ‘no’ be ‘no.’**

**NEXT STEP PRAYER: God, in 2023, I commit to drawing the boundaries in my life that will make me a more effective servant in your kingdom.**

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## Further Study & Discussion Questions

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### Getting to Know You:

Share about a time when you intentionally crossed a boundary.

Example: At 5 years old, I stepped into a four-lane major intersection simply because I was told not to. I was seeking to go further than my mother would allow me.

### Quick Review:

Was there anything about this week's message that was surprising to you? Was there a specific point or Scripture that made you want to elbow the person sitting next to you? Or maybe made them want to elbow you? What was the one thing you remember most from the message?

### Digging Deeper:

This week we looked into what the Bible says about creating and maintaining boundaries in our lives. We know that boundaries keep the right people in the proper areas and let people know where they are and where they are not allowed to go.

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This passage is not to be taken literally! But what is Jesus trying to tell us in this passage? Why do you think He used such graphic illustrations?

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In verse 48, Jesus disregards that His family is outside waiting to speak to him. Sometimes we even have to create boundaries with those very close to us. How does creating boundaries define who you are? How does it define relationships?

### Application:

Is there someone you need to have a boundary conversation with? Is that harder or easier with someone close to you? How do you think they will take it?

Which areas of your life would benefit from adding boundaries? Your marriage, parenting, work-life balance, time management, etc.