

SHOULD HAPPENS

Moving from a **Should** Life to a **Good** Life

September 7 - 29

Should Happens - Week 4 September 28-29, 2019 | Todd Clark

This weekend, Pastor Todd concludes our Should Happens series, talking through our tendency to *should* on God.

CELEBRATE

At the beginning of your small group time, it's good to share about your week and share with each other how you're doing. So, spend some time, right now, connecting before jumping into the discussion questions. You can use the *Connect* section as a guide. If you're doing this Study Guide on your own, take a moment to focus your mind on God and what He might want you to hear today.

CONNECT

1. Talk about the family dynamic that you grew up in. Think back to memories with your siblings, friends or other family... did you feel like you *fit in* in those days? Or did you see yourself as more of the outcast? Share a bit of what that was like.
2. Growing up, were you someone who was quick to take responsibility when things would go wrong? Or, was your first instinct to point a finger at someone else? If you were to be brutally honest with yourself, do you find yourself still struggling with doing the latter in your life today? Share an example if it comes to mind.

Before watching the sermon, or moving on in this study, take a minute to remember that God is always with you. Pray as a group for God to bless your conversation and open your eyes and hearts to what He wants you to hear.

REFLECT

Before moving forward in your study, take a moment and review the key points from this weekend's message.

1. The shoulds are the expectations we place on ourselves, on others and on God.
2. We should on God.
3. God not acting like He *should* is nothing new.
4. Joseph had to move from a should life to a good life. He had to get past *shoulds* with his family, employer and friends for that to happen.
5. Joseph decided to trust in what God could do, rather than staying preoccupied with what God should do.

SCRIPTURES USED IN THE MESSAGE: Genesis 37:3-4, 39:16-18, 40:23-41:1, 41:39-43

RESPOND

1. Talk about a thought, phrase, or moment from this weekend's message that resonated with you. What made it stick with you?
2. Think back to a time you found yourself looking towards God, questioning the things He was, or was not, doing. Talk about where your frustrations with God were coming from in that time. Then, talk about what the journey towards closure and healing looked like for you.
3. Open up to Judges 6:7-13. Before reading, let's set up the scene... Gideon is upset, frustrated and questioning God's current presence and provision. The Israelites have fallen to the Midianites and can't comprehend how God would allow that to happen. Now, go ahead and read this passage. Read slowly and out loud, if possible. Think back to the time you might have cried out to God, like Gideon. Talk about the similarities and the differences in your cry, and his.
4. Verses 7 through 9 remind us all that the Lord has *already* done for the nation of Israel. Meanwhile, the Israelites are spending all their time talking about what God should do... NOW! In your life, do you find it easy or difficult to reflect on the things God has done for you in the past? What are some ways or practices that help you reflect on his provisions?
5. Pastor Todd shared Joseph's story - it can be found in the Book of Genesis. Like Gideon, Joseph was in the heat of a struggle and trial. It's possible he, too, cried out, or even *should on* God a time or two. But, Joseph's posture remains strong, even amidst his ongoing season of trial. Think about the times you went through storms, even if it wasn't prison like Joseph or war like Gideon. What helped you fight and push through, even when you couldn't see the light at the end of the tunnel?

6. So much of the reason Joseph maintained confidence was because he is a dreamer. He knew that one day, God would pull through. He might have done, what Gideon was unable to... remember God's provisions and promises from the past, even in the challenges of the present. Think about some dreams you have for the future, or maybe hopes for what God will do in your life in 5, 10 or 15 years. Share some of those dreams with those around you.
7. Pastor Todd encouraged us to trust in God, even when it's not the easiest thing to do. What is something you're going through in your life, right now, that you feel is requiring you to put trust in what God could do? Talk about some of the challenges or obstacles you are facing amidst your attempt to trust. How could those around you support you on that journey?
8. Take some time to reflect on what God has done in your life in the past couple of months. Maybe grab a pen and paper to jot down what comes to mind. What prayers have you seen God answer in your life? What good things have you experienced Him blessing you with? Take some time to share those things, reminding yourself that remembering God's provisions of the past can offer great peace in our present and future.

Closing Prayer:

God, thank you for creating, knowing, seeing and sustaining all things. Our human minds cannot always understand the mysteries of your ways and your grace. But, Lord, we seek to grow in wisdom as we follow your Son, Jesus. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear all that you have done, are doing and will do, though it might be challenging for us to understand exactly what you're up to. We put our trust in you, because we know you are our good and loving Father. We commit to putting our faith in trust in what you can and will do within us, and throughout this world.

Amen.