

SHOULD HAPPENS

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

September 7 - 29

Should Happens - Week 1 September 7-8, 2019 | Todd Clark

This weekend, Pastor Todd lays a foundation for how we deal with all the “should’s” we put on ourselves.

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 things you were into in junior high or high school (sports, arts, etc). Talk about whether or not you could relate to Todd’s wanting to be the best at his school-age activities. Why or why not?
2. Talk about the title of our new series – how do you think about the idea of “should’s” in your life today? What would your biggest “should” be at this point in your life?

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 our ourselves, on others, and on God.
2. We often *should* on ourselves.
3. Public *shoulds* are those we pick up from other people.
4. Private *shoulds* are unrealistic expectations we place on ourselves.
5. The solution to the *shoulds* is grace.

SCRIPTURES USED IN THE MESSAGE: Matthew 11:28-30, Galatians 1:6, 2:4, 19-21

RESPOND

1. Talk about a thought, phrase, or moment from this weekend's message that struck you. What made it resonate with you?
2. When you think about Pastor Todd's image of "convening a court" in your head, what picture comes to mind? Talk about a time recently when "court was in session over a decision you had to make.
3. Read Matthew 11:25-30. Read slowly and carefully, making notes of words or phrases that stand out to you. At this point in Matthew, Jesus is challenging some of the dominant thinking of the time about who God is and what God is up to. Matthew writes the story of Jesus to a group of people who were Jewish converts to Christianity, which is why he uses the phrase "kingdom of heaven" far more than "kingdom of God" in his writing. Using God's name in a common manner was (and is) offensive to Jewish people.
4. Jesus begins the passage by talking about how God has "revealed" wisdom to simple people (11:25-26). Talk about a time when a "should" moment became way too complicated. How is God challenging you to think in a "simpler" way about that particular "should"?
5. One of the most helpful teachings of Jesus is this: if you want to know what God looks like, just look at Jesus (11:26-27). Talk about how Jesus' words, character, and activity change the way you look at the "good shoulds" you've heard connected to God. What does it mean to you, when thinking about your "shoulds," that God looks like Jesus?
6. Read Matthew 11:28-30 again. This time read it in *The Message* paraphrase if you have access to it (available on the YouVersion Bible app). The people at the time would understand that a Rabbi's ("teacher") "yoke" was a symbol for that Rabbi's

teaching and way of living. In other words, the "yoke" was a philosophy for doing things that led to the life God had in mind for people. Thinking about a "yoke" this way, talk about how this passage changes. How do we balance the "shoulds" when Jesus is the great Rabbi, giving us the things we are to do in order to live as God made us to live?

7. Much of our series is going to be discerning between "good shoulds" and "unhealthy shoulds." Take a moment right now and create two columns on a sheet of paper (or digital paper, if you would rather type!). Write "Good Shoulds" at the top of the left-hand column and write "Unhealthy Shoulds" at the top of the right-hand column. Write down as many "shoulds" in your life right now that you can think of in each category. Keep this list with you throughout the series and make notes when you see your perspective change or when an "unhealthy should" disappears from the list.

Closing Prayer:

God, thank you that you help us deal with all the *shoulds* that compete for our time and energy. Thank you for the grace that frees us from the burden of having to live by the *shoulds* 24/7. Please remind us of the gift of your grace this week, as we deal with the courtroom in our heads. Thank you for the light burden of living with you.

Amen.