

onechurch

bigIdea small group discussion

Unemployment is up. Stocks are down. Furloughs are impacting our finances. Health Care is broken. And everybody's pointing fingers. If you are like most Americans, you're wondering what's going on in Washington. And you're probably wondering what you're supposed to do while you wait for somebody to fix things.

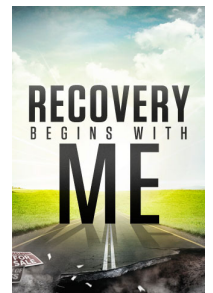
Well, here's an idea. What if we don't wait around for somebody else? What if we go ahead and start fixing it ourselves? What if "We the People" tried to get this country on the road to recovery? Sound like a good idea? Then you're ready for Recovery Road.



BIG IDEA: The road to recovery begins with **WE**, not **THEY**.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Which public story of personal or corporate failure over the past few years fascinated you most?
2. Do you agree that there is a correlation between our nation's problems and the individual choices we have made? Why or why not?
3. Chris mentioned four kinds of problems associated with the abuse of prosperity: discipline, entitlement, greed, and failure of nerve. Which of these do you see as being the biggest issue for our country? For your friends? For you?
4. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Matthew 7:4–5.* Does this verse mean that you need to "have your act together" before you can point out something that is wrong with someone else? What makes this verse so difficult to apply?
5. What if you don't know what your "plank" is? How can you find out? What does the "speck" that bothers you most in others say about the plank in your own eye?
6. Chris said that mature people look for something to do, not someone to blame. With that in mind, what is something you can do this week to remove the plank(s) from your eye?



MOVING FORWARD

The road to recovery begins with **we**, not **they**—with **me**, not **you**. Sure, it's easy to yell at the television, but that's not working. How will you begin today to take a long, hard look at yourself? What would Jesus have you do?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Chris gave a list at the end, asking, "Do you have these planks?"

- Are you undisciplined with your money?
- Are you greedy?
- Are you paying your taxes?
- Men, are you taking responsibility for the children that you brought into this world?
- You're on disability but you know you could work?
- Are you stealing from your employer?
- Do you smoke pot?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, "Let me take the speck out of your eye," when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. Matthew 7: 3–5

