

GIVE UP · PART 3

YOU'RE LOSING IT

SOWING INTO YOUR NEXT LEVEL



SERMON OUTLINE · GIVE UP SERIES

PART 3: YOU'RE LOSING IT

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THE BIG IDEA

Everyone is afraid of losing it. Jesus says losing it is the point. See loss as gain: you're not losing your life, you're planting your life.

THE MESSAGE AT A GLANCE · FOLLOWS JOHN 12 IN ORDER

- I — We Wish to See Jesus · vv. 20–21
- II — The Seed Has to Fall · v. 24a
- III — It Remains Alone · v. 24a
- IV — But If It Dies, Much Fruit · v. 24b
- V — It's Not Your Fruit · v. 24b
- VI — You Want the Best · Gen. 4 · Luke 15
- VII — Whoever Loves His Life Loses It · v. 25
- VIII — What Do You Gain? · Matt. 16:25–26



GIVE UP

SCREEN CUES · FOR THE MEDIA TEAM

CUE 1 **Title graphic: You're Losing It**
Up as you walk out and while you read John 12:20–25.

CUE 2 **Diagram: Seed · Time · Harvest (Part 1)**
Bring back the Part 1 diagram when you say, "Last time we said God gives seed, not harvest."

CUE 3 **Diagram: Unless It Falls & Dies**
Show when you say, "Falling isn't failing. It's planting." (John 12:24)

CUE 4 **Slide: Save It or Plant It**
Show when you say, "Whoever loves his life loses it." (John 12:25)

CUE 5 **Closing slide: You're Planting Your Life**
Up for the close: "You're not losing your life. You're planting your life."

KEY

THE TEXT

John 12:24–25

CUE 1 ▶ **SCREEN · TITLE GRAPHIC: YOU'RE LOSING IT**
Up as you walk out and while you read John 12:20–25.

JOHN 12:24–25 · ESV

24 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25 Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

The KJV reads, "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone."

GIVE UP



I WE WISH TO SEE JESUS

John 12:20–21

JOHN 12:20–21 · ESV

20 Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. 21 So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.”

Jesus says this right after some Greeks come asking to see Him. His answer isn’t a meet-and-greet. It’s a seed going into the ground. He talks about His death.

THE WAY THE WORLD GETS TO SEE HIM IS THROUGH A SEED THAT DIES.

What people will see in you also comes after the dying, not before it.

II THE SEED HAS TO FALL

John 12:24a

JOHN 12:24 · ESV

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone;

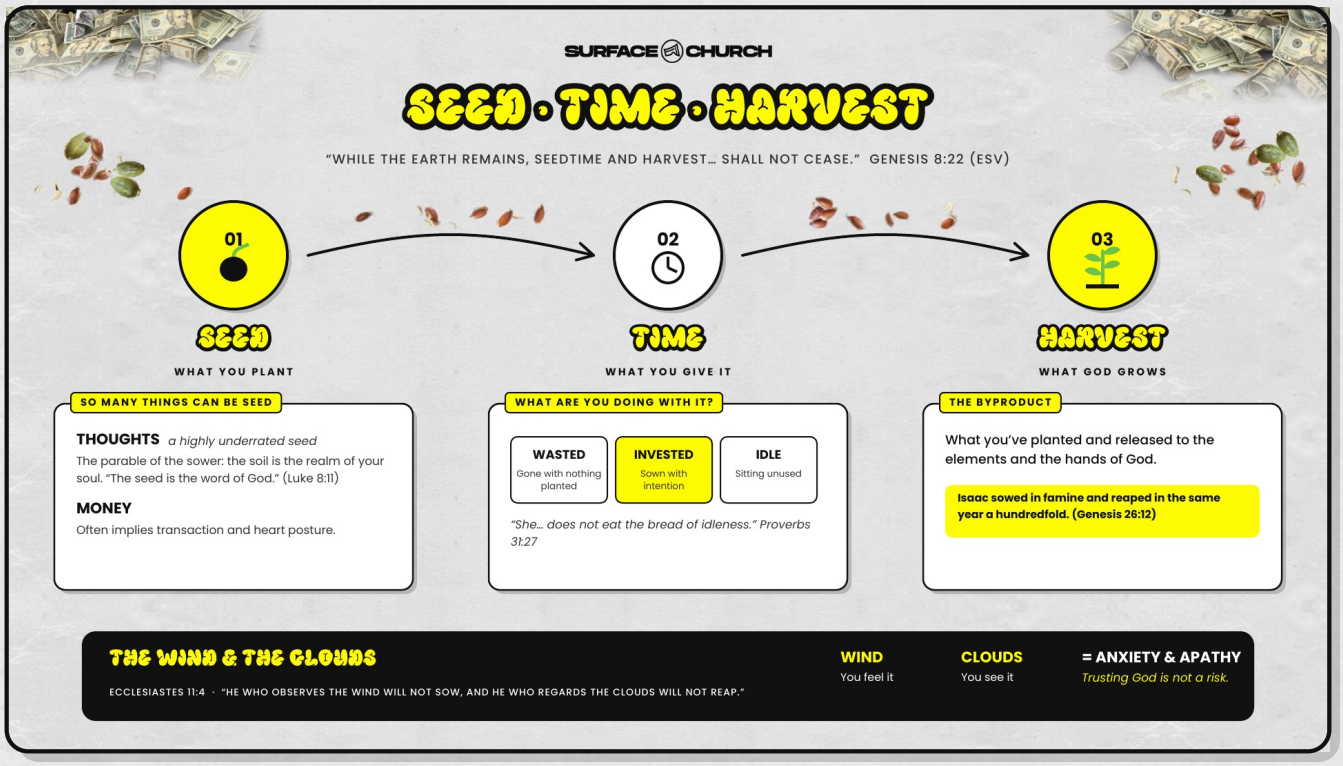
- **Release:** The seed has to leave your hand.
- **Hidden:** It has to go into the ground, out of sight, where no one is clapping.

In Part 1, “I Got the Seed,” we said God gives seed, not harvest. Now we find out what the seed costs.

CUE 2 ▶

SCREEN · DIAGRAM: SEED · TIME · HARVEST (PART 1)

Bring back the Part 1 diagram when you say, "Last time we said God gives seed, not harvest."



THE SEED IN YOUR HAND DOES NOTHING.

Dirt was always designed to grow things. From the beginning, God made the ground to receive seed and bring something up.

GENESIS 1:11 · ESV

And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so.

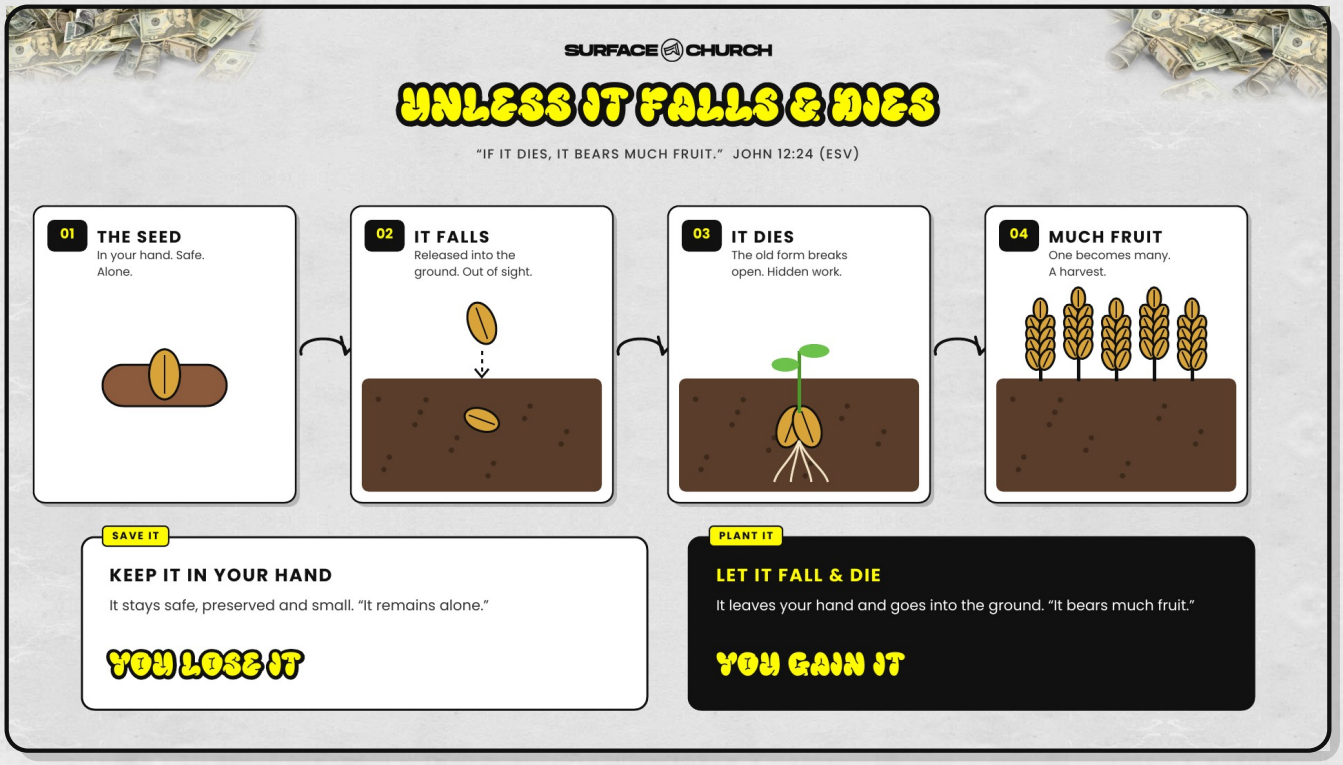
The place that looks like a burial is the place God built for growth.

FALLING ISN'T FAILING. IT'S PLANTING.

CUE 3 ▶

SCREEN · DIAGRAM: UNLESS IT FALLS & DIES

Show when you say, "Falling isn't failing. It's planting." (John 12:24)



III IT REMAINS ALONE

John 12:24a · "it remains alone"

What you protect, you keep small.

A SEED IN YOUR POCKET IS SAFE AND FRUITLESS.

It stays perfectly preserved and completely unproductive. Some of us are lonely because we're still holding what we were supposed to plant.

- **The Cost of Keeping It:** Self-preservation leads to isolation.
- **Selfishness:** Selfish people hate the idea of sharing theirs.
- **Control:** We love control so much that we don't want anyone telling us when to do anything. So putting our life in God's hand is challenging.



HOLDING THE SEED IS YOUR WAY OF PROTECTION.

Many of us don't really want to be Christians, because our lives are no longer our own.

1 CORINTHIANS 6:19–20 · ESV

19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

ILLUSTRATION · RIDING WITH PEOPLE

You ever met people who don't like to ride with people? They always drive themselves. They've always got somewhere to be, except in the moment. That's what holding the seed looks like: always ready to leave, never willing to be planted.

? What are you still holding that God told you to plant?

IV BUT IF IT DIES, MUCH FRUIT

John 12:24b

JOHN 12:24 · ESV

but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

This is Part 2 all over again: one oil, many vessels. Death is how one turns into many.

The seed doesn't become more seed by staying safe. It becomes a harvest by being buried.

When the seed leaves the hand, it loses its previous form in the dirt, and now it begins to reveal roots.

- **It Loses Its Form:** What it looked like in your hand is gone.



- **It Reveals Roots:** What was hidden inside it starts to show underground, before anything shows above it.

YOU HAVE TO LOSE YOUR OLD FORM BEFORE GOD CAN SHOW YOUR ROOTS.

THE GROUND ISN'T WHERE IT ENDS. IT'S WHERE IT MULTIPLIES.

V IT'S NOT YOUR FRUIT

John 12:24b · "much fruit"

Putting your life in God's hand is hard. Even more challenging is when God tells you, "It's not your fruit."

Scripture holds a duality:

- **Don't consume what's others':** There are parts of the harvest that were never yours to consume.

> **LEVITICUS 19:9–10 · ESV**
>
> When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God.

- **Reap what you sow:** You will eat what you planted.

> **GALATIANS 6:7 · ESV**
>
> Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

- **Eat the fruit of your words:** Even your words produce a harvest you live on.



PROVERBS 18:20–21 · ESV

From the fruit of a man's mouth his stomach is satisfied; he is satisfied by the yield of his lips. Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

God supplies both: seed to sow and bread to eat.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:10 · ESV

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

YOU CAN HAVE SEED AND YOU CAN HAVE A HARVEST, AND YOU WILL ALWAYS HAVE TO SHARE.

VI YOU WANT THE BEST

Genesis 4:3–5 · Luke 15:12–13

Before Jesus says "whoever loves his life," look at two people in Scripture who loved what they could get more than what they could give.

GENESIS 4:3–5 · ESV

3 In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, 4 and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, 5 but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell.

- **Cain and Abel:** Cain brought "an offering of the fruit of the ground." Abel brought the firstborn and the fat portions. One brought something. The other brought the best.

YOU WANT THE BEST, BUT YOU DON'T WANT TO GIVE GOD THE BEST.



Abel gave first and best, and it set the tone for everything else. What you give God first sanctifies what you keep.

LEVITICUS 27:30 · ESV

Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the Lord's; it is holy to the Lord.

ROMANS 11:16 · ESV

If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches.

IF THE TITHE IS HOLY, THE LUMP IS HOLY.

When God gets the first portion, the rest of the lump is blessed. When He gets leftovers, you're asking Him to bless something you never handed Him.

What is a firstfruit?

A firstfruit is the first portion of a new increase, given to God before you touch the rest. It isn't what's left over. It's what comes off the top, and it says "God first" before the harvest is even counted.

PROVERBS 3:9–10 · ESV

9 Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; 10 then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.

How do you honor God with it?

- **The Raise:** When you get a raise, you sow the first of the raise.
- **The Extra $100:** You get an extra $100 a month? You sow the first $100, and the rest is yours.

THE FIRST OF THE INCREASE GOES TO GOD. THE REST IS YOURS, AND IT'S BLESSED.



Jesus Is the Firstfruit

1 CORINTHIANS 15:20 · ESV

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

In the same way, Jesus was sown as the firstfruit for us, so that the rest of us can be seen as the first. He went into the ground first, and the whole harvest after Him is counted holy.

ISAIAH 64:6 · ESV

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

The KJV reads, "all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags."

This is why the Bible says our own righteousness is like filthy rags. We were never going to get there on our own. His holiness is now ours, and that makes us like Him.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21 · ESV

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

HE BECAME US SO WE COULD BECOME LIKE HIM.

LUKE 15:12–13 · ESV

12 And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them.
13 Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.

- **The Prodigal:** The younger son wanted his share before its time. He wanted what the father had without staying with the father, and he lost it in a far country.



YOU WANT AN IN-ORDER LIFE WITH AN OUT-OF-ORDER MENTALITY.

Cain wanted God's regard without God's portion. The prodigal wanted the inheritance without the house. Both wanted the harvest without planting the seed.

EXAMPLE · MARRIAGE

You don't want the marriage. You want the priority. You want the idea of someone choosing you first and considering you first, but you don't practice what you preach in concept.

You can't ask for a harvest you refuse to sow. If you want to be chosen first, plant choosing others first.

COULD IT BE THAT GOD KNOWS YOU DON'T WANT IT FOR REAL?

VII WHOEVER LOVES HIS LIFE LOSES IT

John 12:25

JOHN 12:25 · ESV

Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

Here's the paradox: the thing you're trying to save is the thing you're losing.

CUE 4 ▶

SCREEN · SLIDE: SAVE IT OR PLANT IT

Show when you say, "Whoever loves his life loses it." (John 12:25)

What are you trying to save that's actually costing you?

- Your image
- Your comfort
- Your timeline
- Your way



- **Save It:** Keep it in your hand. It stays safe, preserved and small. You lose it.
- **Plant It:** Let it fall and die. It goes into the ground and bears much fruit. You gain it.

VIII WHAT DO YOU GAIN?

Matthew 16:25–26

MATTHEW 16:25–26 · ESV

25 For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?

Jesus asks the question every one of us has to answer: what is it worth to keep it?

Paul learned to see loss as gain:

PHILIPPIANS 3:7–8 · ESV

7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

YOU'RE NOT LOSING YOUR LIFE. YOU'RE PLANTING YOUR LIFE.

CUE 5 ▶

SCREEN · CLOSING SLIDE: YOU'RE PLANTING YOUR LIFE

Up for the close: "You're not losing your life. You're planting your life."

Close with the series in one line:

- **Part 1:** I Got the Seed: God gives seed, not harvest.
- **Part 2:** A Scarcity Mentality: the oil never ran out; the vessels did.
- **Part 3:** You're Losing It: the seed has to fall and die to bear much fruit.