

Oil & Water | Blake Austin | 11.8.26

Small Group Guide

Overview

This week's message called the church to examine whether we are truly living under the anointing of God or whether we have drifted into a life of comfort, passivity, and self-reliance. Using the contrasting stories of Saul and David, Pastor Blake challenged us to stop consuming the kingdom and start contributing to it, and to return to a posture of repentance and abiding in God.

Key Takeaways

- The anointing of God is not mythical, it is missional. It exists to advance God's kingdom, not to build our own.
- You can be living in your calling and still not be walking in the anointing. Obedience and abiding in God are what position us to receive it.
- Just as Saul forfeited his anointing through people-pleasing and self-reliance, we can forfeit ours through comfort and disobedience.
- The anointing gives us true discernment, unshakable conviction, divine inspiration and creativity, and full spiritual empowerment.
- Blaming the church, pastors, or other people for our spiritual dryness is a symptom of living outside the anointing. The responsibility to maintain our anointing belongs to us.
- Returning to the anointing requires honest self-examination, genuine repentance, and a commitment to abiding in God.

Discussion Questions

Opening

1. Before diving into the sermon content, take a moment to check in with one another. Where are you spiritually right now? Would you describe yourself as dry, growing, or on fire? Why?

2. Pastor Blake said he wanted to skip the pleasantries because this message was heavy on his heart. What part of the sermon hit you the hardest, and why do you think it landed that way?

The Anointing: What It Is and Why It Matters

3. Pastor Blake defined anointing as missional rather than mythical. In your own words, what do you think that distinction means? How does it change the way you think about the anointing?

4. In the Old Testament, the anointing was reserved for prophets, priests, and kings. In the New Testament, it became available to every believer. How does it make you feel knowing that the anointing of God is available to you personally? Does it feel like a privilege, a responsibility, or both?

5. Pastor Blake described four things the anointing provides: true discernment, unshakable conviction, divine inspiration and creativity, and full spiritual empowerment. Which of these do you feel you are most in need of right now? Which do you feel you have experienced most strongly in the past?

The Story of Saul: A Warning

6. Saul was talented, capable, and chosen by God, yet he forfeited his anointing through people-pleasing and self-reliance. In what ways do you see Saul's tendencies showing up in your own life?

7. Pastor Blake said, "You can be living in your calling and not be anointed at the same time." Have you ever experienced a season where you were doing the right things outwardly but felt spiritually empty or disconnected? What did that look like?

8. Read 1 Samuel 13:13-14. Samuel tells Saul that because of his disobedience, the kingdom would pass to another. Pastor Blake said his greatest fear is that someone else would fulfill the purpose God had called him to. Does that fear resonate with you? How does it motivate or challenge you?

Comfort vs. Calling

9. Pastor Blake described a version of the "good life" that many Christians settle for, centered on good grades, good jobs, good families, and comfortable retirements. He contrasted that with believers around the world who suffer and even die for their faith. How did that contrast make you feel? Did it convict you, challenge you, or something else?

10. He said, "It's not about us, but it involves us." What do you think he meant by that? How does that statement reshape the way you think about your role in God's kingdom?

11. Pastor Blake challenged us to have a vision for our families that goes beyond providing comfort. What does a kingdom-centered vision for your family actually look like in practical terms?

Returning to the Anointing

12. Pastor Blake identified three steps to returning to the anointing: understanding what you forfeited, stopping the blame and starting to own your spiritual condition, and returning to abiding in God. Which of these three is the hardest for you personally, and why?

13. He said, "The anointing is not the church's responsibility to maintain for you. It's yours." How does that statement challenge the way you approach Sunday mornings, life group, or your personal time with God?

14. John 3:24 speaks about abiding in God and God abiding in us through his Spirit. What does genuine abiding look like in your daily life? Is there a difference between going through spiritual disciplines and truly abiding?

Practical Applications

Work through these individually before your next group meeting, or discuss them together as a group.

- Write down two or three specific areas of your life where you sense you have lost the anointing. Where have you become dry, dull, or distant from God? Name them honestly.

- Ask yourself these questions and write down your answers: Where have I chosen comfort over obedience? Where have I chosen passivity over purpose? Where have I been blaming others for my own spiritual condition?

- Commit to one spiritual discipline this week that deepens your connection with God. It might be Scripture reading, extended prayer, silence and solitude, or worship. The goal is not to perform the discipline but to use it as a way to position yourself before God and receive what he wants to give you.

- Spend time in prayer this week and ask God to show you the vision he has for your life, your family, and your role in your community. Write down what comes to mind and bring it to share with your group next week.
- If repentance is needed, do not wait. Come before God honestly, name what you have forfeited, and ask him to restore the oil in your life.

Closing Prayer Focus

Close your time together by praying over these three things as a group:

1. Repentance for the areas where you have chosen comfort over obedience and passivity over purpose.
2. Restoration of the anointing in each group member's life and in your church as a whole.
3. A greater vision, that God would expand your view of what he wants to do through you, your family, your workplace, and your community.
