

THE SAINT PAUL'S BAPTIST CHURCH  
**GROW | PRAY | SERVE**



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# Welcome!

**Series: Rhythms of Grace**

**Today's Message: Hit Your High Note**

**Dr. Lance D. Watson, Senior Pastor**

**PRAYER:** You stop to hear the cries of those in crisis. You stop to listen to faint prayers of those in distress. You stop to comfort a child in need of support. You stop for us. Today, we give you thanks that with innumerable issues, problems, complexities, and circumstances to manage, you think enough of us to stop for us. Thank you Jesus. In your name, we pray. Amen.

**ICEBREAKER:** How persistent are you on a scale of 1-10? (1=not very, 10=extremely) How do others interpret your persistence?

**INTRODUCTION:** Mark is a gospel of rhythm; of rhythm and blues, but the blues often come first. Jesus is leading the way to Jerusalem, and yet halts His forward progress to listen to the holler of a blind beggar. Notice the details Mark provides: 1) The crowd is unreceptive to Bartimaeus until Jesus is receptive. 2) Bartimaeus is obviously blind, but Jesus asks him a question that changes his life. 3) Jesus shows us that everyone matters to God, and we should never be ashamed to “hit our high note” and claim the Lord’s attention.

**BIBLE STUDY:** Read St. Mark 10:46-52 (NIV)

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. **What was your biggest takeaway from the message?** What’s one thing you learned? What questions came to mind as you listened to the message today? What points did you find most insightful? How did the message challenge you?
2. What do you love most about the gift of sight? What do you like about not “being bankrupt?” Imagine for a moment what being a blind beggar does to a person. Share your thoughts.
3. When did you first hear about Jesus? What feelings, emotions, questions did Jesus stir in your mind and heart? What does Bartimaeus do when he hears Jesus of Nazareth is coming? Have you ever cried out loudly for Jesus to have mercy on you? Under what circumstances?
4. When Bartimaeus “hits his high note,” the crowd rebukes him. Have you ever been rebuked before? How did it feel? What does rebuke cause you to do usually? Shut up? Give up? Apologize? Or cry out even louder?
5. What does Bartimaeus risk by getting even louder? What might the Lord be leading you to do but it might be difficult because of people rebuking you?

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6. When Bartimaeus continues to cry out Jesus stops and calls him. What do you think Bartimaeus thinks and feels as he hears that Jesus is calling him? Bart “throws off his cloak.” He leaves his “place and position” of former life. He no longer trusts in the cloak he sits on to beg. He’s now trusting Jesus. What things and people are you sometimes tempted to trust instead of Jesus? What makes us slow to “throw off our cloaks?”

**CHALLENGE:** What one thing do you need to give a “holy holler” about this week?

**SERVE:** Pray over St. Mark 10:46-52 this week. **Praise** God that God is concerned about you. **Listen:** when you are quiet before God, it is amazing how clear things become. **Respond.** Write it down, live it out, give Him praise!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Take this time to share group announcements. Church wide and campus specific announcements can be found at [www.myspbc.org](http://www.myspbc.org). You can also “find, follow and like” our Facebook page at [facebook.com/myspbc](https://facebook.com/myspbc). Turn on your notifications.

**CELEBRATIONS:** Take this time to share praise reports (e.g. answered prayers, birthdays, anniversaries, promotions).

**PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAYER:** Take this time to share prayer requests. Close with prayer.

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## We Care!

NOTICE: PLEASE BE PATIENT AS WE REOPEN OUR CAMPUSES IN THE SAFEST MANNER POSSIBLE. As a small group leader, we depend on you to show members that we care. Here's a list of resources to help you.

### FOR PRAYER:

CALL: 804.463.2472  
EMAIL: [prayer@myspbc.org](mailto:prayer@myspbc.org).

### FOR COUNSELING:

CALL: 804.643.6177  
EMAIL: [Barnabas@myspbc.org](mailto:Barnabas@myspbc.org)

### TO REQUEST A HOSPITAL VISIT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (For Emergencies)  
EMAIL: [ecare@myspbc.org](mailto:ecare@myspbc.org).

### TO REQUEST FUNERAL SUPPORT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (Pastor On Call)  
EMAIL: [ecare@myspbc.org](mailto:ecare@myspbc.org).

### TO FIND A SUPPORT GROUP:

CALL: 804.643.6177  
EMAIL: [Barnabas@myspbc.org](mailto:Barnabas@myspbc.org).

### TO REQUEST EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:

CALL: 804.643.4000  
EMAIL: [emergencyassistance@myspbc.org](mailto:emergencyassistance@myspbc.org).

### TO CONTACT MY LIFE STAGE PASTOR:

CALL: 804.643.4000 and Press 1 for the Dial By Name Directory

#### EMAIL:

- Imagination (0-10): Vernita Williams: [Vernita.Williams@myspbc.org](mailto:Vernita.Williams@myspbc.org)
- SMB (11-19): Martina Jones-Smith: [Martina.Jones-Smith@myspbc.org](mailto:Martina.Jones-Smith@myspbc.org)
- Dreamchasers (20-29): Juan Shackelford: [juan.shackelford@myspbc.org](mailto:juan.shackelford@myspbc.org)
- Aspire (30-39): Lance Watson, Jr.: [lance.watsonjr@myspbc.org](mailto:lance.watsonjr@myspbc.org)
- Fusion (40-49): Michelle Townsend: [michelle.townsend@myspbc.org](mailto:michelle.townsend@myspbc.org)
- Encore (50-59): Jamie Duncan: [Jamie.Duncan@myspbc.org](mailto:Jamie.Duncan@myspbc.org)
- Prime Time (60-69): Maceo Freeman: [maceo.freeman@myspbc.org](mailto:maceo.freeman@myspbc.org)
- Refiners (70+): Roscoe Jones: [roscoe.jones@myspbc.org](mailto:roscoe.jones@myspbc.org)

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*GPS is a study guide based on the weekend message. The purpose of this guide is to assist small groups in study.  
Previous GPS Guides are available online at [www.myspbc.org](http://www.myspbc.org).*



## Small Group Leader Guide

*Would you like to START or JOIN a Small Group at Saint Paul's?*

Most existing groups are open to new group members, and new groups begin on a regular basis. If you have friends in a small group, ask about joining their group. If you are new to Saint Paul's and are looking for a place to connect, please feel free to contact us and we will do our best to help you find the right group.

### **Leader Tips:**

The GPS document is a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you must use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through while others will be over in a few seconds!

1. Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was taught on the weekend. Just ask questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our small groups. So, have fun with the people in your group.

## Agenda for a Small Group Gathering

### *Gathering Time*

Take 5-10 minutes to welcome everyone, catch up and if planned, share some food!

### *Discussion Time*

Here's a suggested format:

1. **Ice Breaker** – Lighthearted icebreaker question (5-10 min.)
2. **Discussion** - Discussion time, Bible study, application challenge (30-40 min.)
3. **Prayer** – Prayer requests and praying for one another (10-20 min.)
4. **Planning** – Remind the group of how we serve together (e.g. usher, sing, greet, pray, etc.)