



### Sermon Discussion Guide

11.20.22 Message | Justin Brunk, Steven Mayfield, Jason Southward

#### Key Scriptures:

*But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.*

- 1 Peter 3:14-17

#### Message Highlights:

- Each of us has the responsibility of shepherding the next generation.
- We are trying to lead the next generation to the things God has for them, not the things that he's done for us.
- The memorials we build are meant to inspire the next generation and show that God is not done yet.
- We are focused not just on funding, but on shaping a generation.

#### Conversation Starter:

The Student Ministry team set out figurative memorials (posters) throughout the church bearing statistics that convey God's mighty hand over student ministry throughout the last several years. What are some of your memorials that demonstrate God's faithfulness over the years?

#### Discuss the Message:

1. As told in Joshua 4, a lack of faithfulness of 1 generation caused the entire nation of Israel to wander in the wilderness for 40 years! What can we glean from the story in Joshua 4, both about God's grace and his just character?
  - a. Put yourselves in the shoes of the generation that would miss out on living in God's promised land due to their lack of faithfulness. How does this increase your appreciation for the importance of each generation's faithfulness to God?
  - b. How do faith and obedience work together in our walk with God? How did faith and obedience specifically bless Caleb? See Numbers 14:24 for help.
2. Are you leaving behind a trail of hope for the next generation to glean encouragement from? How so?



- a. Have you ever been specifically challenged to explain “a reason for the hope that is in you”? Give a brief explanation to your group now.
  - b. What is the difference between giving a defense for your faith RATHER than being defensive?
3. How have you fallen into the trap of leading the next generation to the things God did for you, rather than the new things he may have for them?
- a. What role have the faith stories of others played in strengthening your faith?

**Pray:**

*Father God, we are thankful to be a part of a vibrant and intergenerational faith community. Help us to lead with a posture of open minds and hearts as we humbly walk the path you've laid out for us. Forgive us when we get stuck in the past, whether out of fear or doubt, and make us aware of your presence as we open our eyes to the new things you are doing day by day. Thank you especially for all of the students and the student leaders here at Madison Park Church. We pray your blessings over each of these people and ask that your favor be upon them. It's in your son, Jesus', name we pray. Amen.*