

SMALL GROUPS

Sermon Overview

This Mother's Day message reminds us that God calls all of us—men and women, parents and non-parents—to become people who build up others rather than tear them down. Through the example of Proverbs 31 and the sacrificial love of Christ, we learn that God uses ordinary, willing people to make extraordinary impact, often in unseen moments.

Key Takeaways

1. God uses ordinary people to build extraordinary things
 - God isn't looking for perfect people; He's looking for willing people
 - Surrendered hearts matter more than flawless performance
2. The greatest impact often happens in unseen moments
 - Hidden faithfulness can change generations
 - What feels unnoticed on earth is never unseen in heaven
3. Godly love is stronger than culture's version of love
 - Culture says love is a feeling; God says love is a sacrifice
 - Real love is measured more by sacrifice than sentiment
4. Your words help build people or break people
 - Your mouth can be either a construction tool or a wrecking ball
 - Death and life are in the power of the tongue
5. Jesus honors those who pour out their lives
 - Heaven celebrates where earth often overlooks
 - Your greatest legacy is the lives you helped build

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

1. The sermon states, "God is not looking for perfect people. He is looking for willing people." What does being "willing" look like practically in your daily life?
2. Why do you think God often works through "unseen moments" rather than public platforms? How does this challenge our culture's values?
3. How does the biblical definition of love (sacrifice, covenant, service) differ from what you see portrayed in media and culture today?

Personal Reflection

4. Pastor Mack asked, "What happens emotionally when you enter the room? Do people feel smaller or stronger around you?" How would you honestly answer this question about yourself?
5. Think about the words spoken over you in the past. Which ones still impact you today—positively or negatively? How has this shaped you?
6. Where in your life are you faithfully serving in "unseen moments"? How does knowing that "heaven sees it all" encourage you?

Application & Growth

7. The sermon mentioned that some people are "wrecking balls" while others are "construction tools" with their words. Which category do you tend to fall into, and what needs to change?
8. Proverbs 31:26 says, "She opens her mouth in wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue." What practical steps can you take this week to speak more life and less criticism?
9. Who in your life needs to be "built up" right now? What specific action can you take this week to encourage them?
10. The message emphasized that motherhood is "more than just biology—it's reflected through the spirit of care and compassion and sacrifice." Who has spiritually mothered or mentored you? How can you pass that forward to someone else?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: The 7-Day Encouragement Challenge

- Each day, intentionally speak life-giving words to someone different
- Text, call, or speak face-to-face
- Be specific about what you appreciate or see God doing in them

Option 2: The Unseen Faithfulness Commitment

- Identify one "unseen" area where you can serve faithfully
- Commit to doing it without seeking recognition
- Journal about what God shows you through this experience

Option 3: The Wrecking Ball to Construction Tool Transformation

- Ask God to reveal where your words have been destructive
- If needed, seek forgiveness from someone you've hurt with your words
- Practice speaking blessing instead of sarcasm for one full week

Group Activity

Word Building Exercise:

- Give each person 3 index cards
- On each card, write the name of someone in your life who needs encouragement
- Write one specific, life-giving statement you will share with each person this week
- Share with the group and pray over these commitments

Memory Verse

Proverbs 18:21 - "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit."

Closing Reflection Questions

1. What is one thing God spoke to you through this message?
2. What is one action step you will take this week as a result?
3. How can this group pray for you as you seek to become someone who builds others up?

Prayer Focus

- Pray for mothers and all women in the group—for strength, wisdom, and encouragement
- Pray for those who find Mother's Day painful due to loss, strained relationships, or unfulfilled desires
- Pray that each group member would become a "builder" in their sphere of influence
- Ask God to help the group speak life and not death with their words
- Pray for opportunities to encourage others in "unseen moments" this week

Looking Ahead

Personal Reflection for Next Week: Journal about this question: "What will my legacy be? Will it be what I accumulated or the lives I helped build?"

Group Challenge: Come prepared next week to share one story of how you built someone up with your words or actions this week.

Additional Resources

- Read Proverbs 31 in its entirety this week
- Study other passages on the power of words: James 3:1-12, Ephesians 4:29, Colossians 4:6
- Reflect on Jesus' sacrificial love: John 15:9-17