

SMALL GROUPS

Key Scripture

Genesis 6:18-22 - "So Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him."

Main Points from the Sermon

1. Faithfulness is the Goal

God's definition of success is not fame—it's faithfulness. Heaven celebrates the faithful servant, not the famous one.

2. Build the Boats

God doesn't give opportunities; He gives assignments. An opportunity builds your brand, but an assignment builds God's kingdom.

3. Don't Quit Mid-Build

Your job is not to produce the harvest—your job is to not give up. God handles the outcome; you handle the obedience.

4. Keep Swinging the Hammer

Real faithfulness is often unseen. If you need people to notice your faithfulness, you won't stay faithful.

5. What is Your Boat?

Every person has a boat to build. If you can build it on your own, it's probably too small. God-sized assignments require God-sized strength.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

1. Noah's 120-Year Assignment: How does Noah's story challenge your understanding of faithfulness? What would it take for you to stay committed to something for that long without seeing results?
2. Opportunities vs. Assignments: What's the difference between chasing an opportunity and fulfilling an assignment from God? Can you identify which you're currently pursuing?
3. The Pastor's Vulnerability: How did the pastor's transparency about wanting to quit impact you? Why is it important for leaders to be honest about their struggles?

Personal Reflection

4. Your Unfinished Projects: What has God asked you to build that you've been tempted to quit? What specific obstacles are making you want to give up?
5. Roots vs. Fruit: Have you ever been in a season where nothing seemed to be happening on the surface? Looking back, can you see how God was working "under the ground" during that time?
6. Faithfulness in the Unseen: Where are you currently being faithful when no one else sees it? How does doing things in secret (without recognition) challenge you?

Going Deeper

7. The Culture of Quitting: The sermon mentioned that younger adults average 14 jobs by age 31. How has our culture's "what's next" mentality affected your spiritual life and commitments?
8. God's Perspective vs. Yours: The pastor said we don't need a position change but a perspective change. What would change in your current situation if you saw it from God's perspective?

9. Fighting Your Own Battles: Read Exodus 14:14 - "The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." Where are you trying to fight battles that God wants to fight for you?

Key Takeaways

Write these down and discuss which one resonates most with you:

- God's definition of success is not fame, it's faithfulness
- An opportunity builds my brand, but an assignment builds God's kingdom
- Just because you don't see fruit doesn't mean God isn't growing roots
- My job is not to produce the harvest; my job is to not give up
- If I need people to notice my faithfulness, I will not stay faithful
- God-sized assignments require God-sized strength

Practical Application

This Week's Challenge:

Identify Your Boat Take time this week to prayerfully answer these three questions:

1. What has God asked me to build?
2. What have I been tempted to quit?
3. What do I need to start building again?

Action Steps:

Day 1-2: Spend 15-20 minutes in prayer asking God to reveal what assignment He has for you. Write down what comes to mind.

Day 3-4: Evaluate areas where you've been chasing opportunities instead of fulfilling assignments. What needs to change?

Day 5-6: Identify one thing you've wanted to quit. Make a commitment to "keep swinging the hammer" for the next 30 days, regardless of visible results.

Day 7: Reflect on God's faithfulness in your life. Journal about times when He was faithful even when you couldn't see it.

Accountability Partner Exercise:

Pair up with someone in your group and share:

- One area where you're struggling to stay faithful
- One specific way they can pray for you this week
- Commit to checking in with each other mid-week

Scripture for Further Study

- Matthew 25:23 - "Well done, good and faithful servant"
- Galatians 6:9 - "Let us not become weary in doing good"
- Romans 5:8 - "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us"
- Romans 8:31 - "If God is for us, who can be against us?"
- 1 Peter 5:7 - "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you"

Prayer Focus

Close your group time praying for:

1. Endurance - That God would give each person strength to finish what He's called them to build
2. Clarity - That God would reveal assignments that have been confused with opportunities
3. Courage - To stay faithful even when no one is watching or applauding
4. Perspective - To see current struggles through God's eyes rather than our own
5. The Church - That Odyssey Church and churches everywhere would remain faithful to their assignments

Leader's Notes

- Create a Safe Space: This sermon may bring up feelings of failure or discouragement. Remind the group that honesty is welcomed and there's no judgment.

- Watch for Struggles: Some members may be on the verge of quitting something God-ordained. Be prepared to offer extra encouragement and prayer.
- Celebrate Faithfulness: Take time to acknowledge and celebrate examples of faithfulness within your group, even in small things.
- Don't Rush: The pastor emphasized taking time to be still and hear from God. Don't feel pressured to get through every question. Quality conversation is better than completing the guide.

Closing Thought

"Jesus did not quit on you. He didn't walk away mid-build. He stayed faithful unto death so that He could finish it. He stayed faithful so that you and I can live faithful."

Final Question: How does Jesus' faithfulness to you motivate your faithfulness to Him?

Next Steps: Encourage group members to share testimonies next week about what God revealed to them regarding their "boat" and any breakthroughs in areas where they wanted to quit.