

SERMON BASED CURRICULUM

**Date & Sermon Series:**

November 26/27, 2016; Dream

Speaker:

Pastor Mark Batterson

Scripture Focus: Philippians 2:25-30

Note To Leaders:

This weekend we discussed what it means to live a life of risk for the sake of Christ in order that others may feel invaluable. These questions provide a framework to prompt or foster discussion in your small group. Don't feel you have to use all or any of these questions and you don't have to make it to the end! Use the questions that best fit your group and let discussion flow.

Icebreaker Suggestions: When was there a time where you felt invaluable? What did the other person do to make you feel invaluable?

Sermon Series Questions:

1. What thoughts are still resonating with you from the sermon?
2. What was most encouraging or challenging about this weekend's message?
3. In what ways did Philippians 2:25-30 speak to you?

Specific Questions:

1. Pastor Mark says that humility was not a word well known or considered to be a virtue at the time of Jesus. And yet, when Jesus came he said that "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble" (1 Peter 5:5) and that Jesus himself was "humble in heart" (Matthew 11:29). What does humility mean?
2. Pastor Mark says, "Humility is appreciating the image of God in others. Humility is appreciating that Christ died for them." Why does God ask us to appreciate others? Why is humility important in Scripture?
3. Pastor Mark also says, "Humility is the ability to show compassion beyond the borders of your moral convictions." How can tolerance be harmful to true humility?
4. Practically speaking, what are some ways you can intentionally add value to people's lives so that they feel invaluable?

5. When was the last time you risked something for your faith?

6. Epaphroditus is only mentioned once in Scripture found in Paul's letter to Philippi in Philippians 2:25-30. He risked his life to protect Paul. Pastor Mark referenced Epaphroditus as a Parabalani- someone who risks their life to care for the sick, the poor, and show value to every individual. How can you too be a Parabalani? Why does Paul say that these kinds of people deserve honor?

7. Pastor Mark says, "You don't die when you die. What you do makes a difference for all of eternity." What difference do you want to make? What legacy do you want to leave behind?

Challenge:

Just as Bruce from the message was encouraged to put himself in the offering, how can you put yourself in the offering? How can you serve and where do you need to get involved?

Read, Pray, Act:

Read

- Study the word "honor" and "humility" in Scripture (One tool that is helpful is <http://www.blueletterbible.org>). What do the two words have in common? How are they different? How does Jesus give honor and show humility in his ministry?

Pray

- Pray for God to show you ways to give honor, live in a spirit of humility, and make people feel invaluable because they were made in the image of God and Christ died for them.

Act

- Whatever God spoke to you about in prayer and studying (in the previous steps), be a James 1:22 kind of person. Be a doer, not just a hearer.