

SERMON BASED CURRICULUM

**Date & Sermon Series:**

February 20/21, 2016; Altars

Speaker:

Pastor Mark Batterson

Scripture Focus: Joshua 4:1-3, 19-24

Note To Leaders:

This weekend we discussed how God has given us a spirit of victory and celebration. 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: What are some daily reminders that help you remember life is a gift?

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 this parable speak to where you are now in your life?

Specific Questions:

1. Pastor Mark emphasized that building altars, growing spiritually, and chasing dreams don't happen by default. It takes work. If God has given you a dream, whether it was today or eight years ago, what are you doing to go after that dream?
2. How can you personally celebrate what God has done in your life and will do again in the future?
3. Pastor Mark says, "Destiny is long obedience in the same direction." Metaphorically speaking, if we are to continue in perseverance and dedication to get to the place of victory, like Will Smith, what treadmill do you need to stay on? What bed do you need to make daily?
4. In Exodus 33:11, we see Joshua setting the example of remaining in the presence of God. Why is spending regular time in God's presence important? What are some practices that can help you spend more time with God in his presence?

5. Blessings require action. What action is God calling you to in order to grow spiritually during this Lent season?

6. If logizomai means to impute or deposit into someone else's account, and Christ has already done this for us, how can you show the example of Christ by flipping the blessing and making a deposit in someone else's name this week?

7. When was the last time you celebrated something for seven days or longer? Which area in your life can you spend more time celebrating in order to glorify God?

Challenge, Pray, Act:

Find a chair, a closet, the foot of the bed, or a room in your house that can be made into a physical altar this week. Go through the provided NCC reading plan at <http://ncc.gd/lent> or a reading plan of your own.

Do an inventory of your life thus far. Journal it. Pray through it. Intentionally look for so far so God moments, dreams, and blessings.