

SERMON BASED CURRICULUM

**Date & Sermon Series:**

August 6/7, 2016; Mountains Move

Speaker:

Pastor Mark Batterson

Scripture Focus: Acts 27:27-29

Note To Leaders:

This weekend we discussed dropping anchors of sanctified expectations in our lives- moving from doubt to expectation. 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 the last time your reality was completely different than your expectations? Was it a good experience? A bad one?

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 Acts 27:27-29 or the story of Paul speak to you?

Specific Questions:

1. What is the purpose of an anchor? Why are anchors necessary?
2. Pastor Mark says, "Faith is aligning your life with the promises of God- so that your expectations are sanctified." What is your initial reaction when your experiences are different than your expectations? What does it mean to have sanctified expectations and how can our expectations become sanctified? How did Paul live a life of sanctified expectations?
3. Acts 27:29 says, "Fearing that we would be dashed against the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern and prayed for daylight." How can you learn to drop anchors and pray for daylight in your shipwreck situations? When was the last time you prayed for daylight?
4. Pastor Mark says, "Without an anchor, you'll go wherever the current takes you. You have to anchor yourself to something or someone." When the storm comes (and it will), what are you anchored to? Where do you turn to?

5. Pastor Mark says, “The promises of God are what you drop to anchor yourself in.” What promises of God or experiences have had the most life-changing impact and can be used as your life anchors? What are some Scripture verses that could be used as your life anchors?

6. The Apostle Paul experienced things that were never a part of his plan. He made the most out of the shipwreck, the snakebite, and the house arrest all because he had sanctified expectations. He was living out the promises of God. He knew what God was able to do. What expectations of God do you have? Do you believe He is able?

7. Pastor Mark talks about a process in sailing called “Kedging”. “It is a slow, long process where sailors would cast their anchors ahead of the ship, then pull the ship toward the anchor. It was a slow, hard process, but it’s the only way to navigate difficult, dangerous waters.” What areas in your life do you need to keep pulling towards the anchor? Where do you need to do some kedging?

Challenge:

Pastor Mark prayerfully and thoughtfully has memorized four life anchors that have rooted him in the promises of God and have sanctified his expectations so that regardless of a shipwreck, he knows WHO he is anchored to. Do you have anchors? Spend some time this week remembering and discovering God’s promises and Scripture verses that can become your life anchors. What are three that can become your anchors?

Read, Pray, Act:

1) Memorize Hebrews 6:19.

“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.”

2) Journal or meet with a friend to talk about your anchors.

3) Pray about how your anchor can become a testimony to somebody else like Pastor Mark’s anchors served as a testimony to us.