

Lessons from the Crabgrass – Bible Study Helps

Title: Lessons from the Crabgrass: Uprooting Sin in Our Lives

Sermon Summary: This sermon uses the analogy of crabgrass to illustrate how sin can spread in our lives if left unchecked. It emphasizes the importance of not just trimming sin superficially but uprooting it completely, replacing it with godly habits. He stresses the need for daily diligence in our spiritual lives and the importance of filling our hearts with virtuous things to prevent the regrowth of sin.

Key Points:

- Sin must be pulled out and uprooted, not just trimmed
- Daily diligence is necessary to prevent the spread of sin
- Cleared ground (after removing sin) must be filled with good and virtuous things
- Replace sinful behavior with godly behavior
- Be cautious of subtle temptations that may lead back to old sinful habits

Scripture Reference:

- Romans 6:1-14
- Hebrews 3:12-13
- Hebrews 12:15-16
- Jeremiah 2:21
- Deuteronomy 7:25-26

Stories:

- Experience of pulling crabgrass in the church parking lot
- The parable of the wheat and the tares (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43)
- The story of Achan's sin (Joshua 7)
- Reference to the parable of the unclean spirit (not fully elaborated)
- Personal anecdote about transitioning from secular to Christian music after salvation

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Discipleship and Small Group Guide: Lessons from the Crabgrass

Opening Prayer

Key Takeaways:

1. Sin must be pulled out and uprooted, not just trimmed.
2. Daily diligence prevents the spread of sins.
3. Cleared ground must be filled with good things to prevent reinfestation.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon used crabgrass as a metaphor for sin. How does this analogy help you understand the nature of sin in your life?
2. What are some "weeds" (sins) in your life that you tend to just trim rather than fully uproot? Why do you think that is?
3. The sermon mentioned the importance of "short accounts with God." What does this mean to you, and how can you practice it in your daily life?
4. How has technology or other distractions in your life potentially contributed to the spread of "spiritual weeds"?
5. The sermon emphasized replacing sinful behaviors with godly ones. Can you share an example of how you've successfully done this in your own life?
6. How does the concept of "filling the cleared ground" with good things relate to spiritual growth? What are some practical ways to do this?
7. Reflect on the Old Testament example of Israel failing to remove idols. How might this relate to modern-day struggles with idolatry or worldliness?

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Practical Applications:

1. This week, identify one "weed" in your life that needs uprooting. Create a plan to address it, including accountability and replacing it with a godly habit.
2. Establish a daily routine for self-examination and confession. Consider using a journal to track your progress.
3. Choose a Scripture verse or passage related to an area of struggle. Memorize it and meditate on it throughout the week.
4. Evaluate your media consumption. Is there anything you need to eliminate or replace with more edifying content?
5. As a group, brainstorm ways to encourage and support each other in "tending the garden" of your spiritual lives.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for His grace and the power of the Holy Spirit to help us overcome sin. Ask for wisdom and strength to uproot sinful habits and replace them with godly ones.

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Discipleship Questions

How might the analogy of crabgrass spreading relate to the way sin can gradually take over our lives if left unchecked?

In what ways do we sometimes 'trim' sin in our lives rather than fully uprooting it, and what are the potential consequences of this approach?

How does the story of Achan in Joshua 7 illustrate the far-reaching effects that hidden sin can have on a community?

What are some practical ways we can cultivate 'daily diligence' in our spiritual lives to prevent the spread of sin?

How might the concept of 'short accounts with God' change our approach to dealing with sin on a day-to-day basis?

In what ways can technology and modern conveniences potentially become 'weeds' in our spiritual lives if we're not careful?

How does the idea of replacing pulled weeds with good grass relate to the biblical concept of putting off the old man and putting on the new?

What are some specific examples of how we might replace sinful behaviors or habits with godly ones in our lives?

How can we discern between genuine spiritual growth and merely 'trimming' the outward appearance of sin in our lives?

In what ways might the lessons from crabgrass apply to how we approach discipleship and spiritual mentoring of others?

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A 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide

Day 1: Uprooting Sin

Reading: Romans 6:1-14

Devotional: Just as crabgrass spreads aggressively and chokes out healthy grass, sin in our lives can quickly take root and hinder our spiritual growth. Paul reminds us that through Christ's death and resurrection, we have died to sin and been made alive to God. Today, reflect on areas of your life where sin may be taking hold. Ask God to help you identify these "weeds" and give you the strength to uproot them completely, not just trim the surface. Remember, we are no longer slaves to sin but alive in Christ. What specific step can you take today to "reckon yourself dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus" (v. 11)?

Day 2: Daily Diligence

Reading: Hebrews 3:12-19

Devotional: Hebrews warns us about the deceitfulness of sin and the importance of daily encouragement. Like tending a garden, our spiritual lives require consistent care and attention. Today, consider how you can build more regular spiritual practices into your daily routine. This might include setting aside time for prayer, Bible reading, or connecting with fellow believers. How can you "exhort one another daily" to prevent hardening of your heart through sin's deceit? Remember, small acts of faithfulness each day can prevent major spiritual setbacks in the future.

Day 3: Replacing Sin with Righteousness

Reading: Ephesians 4:17-32

Devotional: When we uproot sin from our lives, it's crucial to fill that space with godly virtues. Paul instructs us to "put off the old man" and "put on the new man." As you read this passage, identify specific negative behaviors or attitudes that God may be calling you to "put off." Then, consider what positive attributes or actions you should "put on" in their place. For example, if you struggle with anger, how can you cultivate patience and kindness? Remember, this transformation is not just about willpower, but about allowing the Holy Spirit to renew your mind and heart.

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Day 4: Cultivating Spiritual Growth

Reading: 2 Peter 1:3-11

Devotional: Peter outlines a progression of spiritual qualities that we should actively cultivate in our lives. Like nurturing a garden, growing in faith requires intentional effort and patience. As you read this passage, reflect on which of these qualities you feel strongest in and which need more development. How can you practically "make every effort" to add these virtues to your faith? Remember, God has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him. Trust in His power as you seek to grow.

Day 5: Bearing Fruit for God's Glory

Reading: John 15:1-17

Devotional: Jesus uses the metaphor of a vine and branches to illustrate our relationship with Him and the fruit we're called to bear. Just as a healthy plant naturally produces fruit, a life deeply connected to Christ will manifest the fruit of the Spirit. Today, examine how closely you're "abiding" in Christ. Are there areas where you've become disconnected from the vine? How can you deepen your connection to Jesus through prayer, meditation on His Word, and obedience to His commands? Remember, apart from Him we can do nothing, but as we remain in Him, we will bear much fruit for God's glory.