

Small Group Guide: PRIORITIZING WHAT MATTERS - Prioritizing God

Opening Question: If you could add an extra hour to your day, what would you choose to do with it?

Opening Prayer: Dear God, thank you for bringing us together today. We ask for your guidance as we seek to prioritize what truly matters in our lives. Open our hearts to your word and help us to align our lives with your will. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

KEY SERMON POINTS

Main Idea

- Our lives often feel overwhelmed by busyness, but simply getting more time isn't the solution; reprioritizing what matters is.
- The 'God rock' should be the first big priority we place in our life, both in private and public worship.
- Jesus showed us the importance of keeping God's priorities first in His life, even from a young age.
- God renews our spirit and strength when we make time for Him and prioritize our relationship with Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Understanding the Message

1. The Jar of Life: When you think about your current schedule, what are the "small rocks" that tend to fill up your life first? What are your "big rocks"?
2. **Read Luke 2:41-49.** What does it tell us about priorities that Jesus' first recorded words were about being in His Father's house? How does this challenge our view of religious activities vs. relationship with God?
3. **Read John 10:10.** Jesus said He came to give us life "to the full" (abundant and superior in quality). How is that different from just being "busy"? What does a "full" life look like practically?
4. **Read Colossians 3:10.** Paul talks about your new self, "which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its creator." How does spending time with God actually renew and refresh us? Can you share a time when you experienced this?
5. The Remodeling Analogy: Pastor Dan compared spiritual growth to remodeling a house—exciting at first, messy in the middle, beautiful at the end. Have you experienced this in your spiritual life? Where are you in the "remodeling" process?
6. **Read Isaiah 40:31.** What are the "headwinds" in your life right now? How does hoping/waiting/expecting in the Lord help us to soar above resistance rather than just survive it?
7. Attendance Patterns: The average church attendance has dropped from 3 times per month (1991) to 1.15 times per month (today). If you're honest, what competes with corporate worship in your life? What would it take to make it a higher priority?
8. Pastor Dan suggested getting a "new jar" rather than just reorganizing the old one—In other words, Starting Fresh. What would it look like for you to start 2026 by placing the "God Rock" first in your life? What specific changes would you need to make? (Share if comfortable.)

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS (Choose 1 or 2 that apply to you.)

1. The 8-Minute Morning

Commit to 8 minutes of personal worship time each morning before doing anything else. Use a Bible app with audio if reading is difficult.

2. The Attendance Commitment

Commit to attending church every Sunday this month. Put it in your calendar as a non-negotiable appointment.

3. Store God's Word In Your Heart

Memorize Isaiah 40:31 (see below) and remind yourself of it during challenging times as a source of encouragement.

4. The Digital Sabbath

Choose one day this week to significantly reduce screen time and replace it with time in prayer, worship music, or Bible reading.

MEMORY VERSE for the Week:

but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:31, NIV)

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for the time we've shared today. As we leave this place, help us to prioritize you and the important things in our lives. May we find peace and strength in your presence each day. Bless our upcoming week and guide us to walk closely with you. In Jesus' name, Amen.