

Small Group Guide: PRIORITIZING WHAT MATTERS - Prioritizing People

Opening Question: What is the one item you would place in a time capsule to show future generations what life was like in 2026, and why?

Opening Prayer: *Heavenly Father, we come before You with gratitude for the opportunity to gather and share in fellowship today. As we explore the message from Pastor Dan's sermon about prioritizing what truly matters, open our hearts and minds to Your wisdom. Help us to build strong relationships and to focus on what is most important in our walk with You. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

KEY SERMON POINTS

Main Idea

- Begin with "big rocks" in life, prioritizing the most important aspects, such as relationships and spiritual growth, before filling life with smaller, less significant tasks.
- Jesus prioritizes relationships with those on mission with Him and emphasizes the importance of investing in people for mutual spiritual growth.
- The culture of busyness can often distract us from what truly matters and can be an enemy to spiritual health.
- Engaging in community and maintaining relationships are crucial for spiritual maturity and mental well-being.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Read John 13:1.** How did Jesus' actions in spending His last hours with His disciples demonstrate the importance of relationships?
2. **Read John 10:10.** What does "life to the full" mean in relation to prioritizing our time and relationships?
3. **Read Acts 2:42-46.** How does this passage reflect the balance between worship in a large group setting and intimate fellowship in smaller groups? Why is this balance important?
4. **Read Romans 15:7.** Discuss how can we better accept one another within our church and community groups as Christ has accepted us?
5. **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11.** In this passage, we are encouraged to build each other up. Share an experience where being part of a community of Believers has helped you grow spiritually.
6. Pastor Dan talked about the dangers of too much screen time (as well as our growing dependence on AI and the influence of social media). How might reducing digital distractions create space for real-life relationships?
7. **Read Ephesians 4:25 and James 5:16.** Why is it important to admit our own faults with others (confess your sins to each other)? How can this vulnerability lead to emotional and spiritual healing? What role does intercessory and corporate prayer play in this process?

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

1. Evaluate the “big rocks” in your life this week, focusing on relationships and spiritual growth. Make a note of things that seem “out of balance” or need more intentionality from you in order that the “big rocks” don’t get squeezed out by the “small rocks” of life.
2. Consider joining or starting a Community Group to enhance your spiritual journey and accountability. laurelridgechurch.org/groups >> “Find A Group”
3. Limit non-essential screen time this week to prioritize face-to-face interactions with friends and family.
4. Practice vulnerability within your trusted circles by sharing one personal challenge or area where you desire prayer and support.
5. Make a list of people in your life who may need encouragement or affirmation, and reach out to them this week with words of encouragement, appreciation, or support.

MEMORY VERSE for the Week:

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10, NIV)

Closing Prayer: Dear Lord, thank You for this time together and for the insights we have gained through Pastor Dan's message. Help us to put these lessons into action, focusing on the big rocks in our lives, and investing in meaningful relationships. Grant us the courage to be vulnerable with one another and the wisdom to seek connections over distractions. As we go our separate ways, keep us united in purpose and love. In Jesus' name, Amen.