

SERMON SEQUEL SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM



APRIL 11 – MAY 2

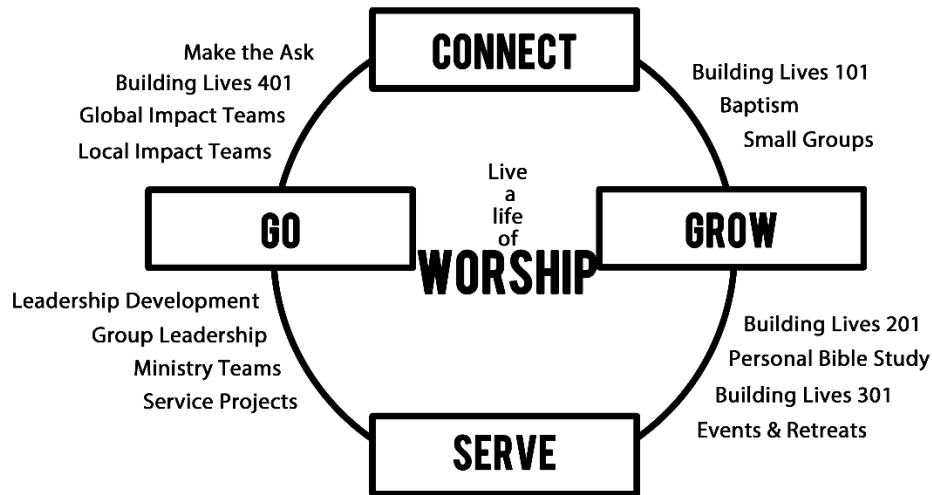
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At Parkway, we are:

Building lives that honor God.

In Small Group, we are:

We are building relationships that build disciples.



Small Group Ground Rules

Small Group ground rules give boundaries for people to operate within to encourage discussion-based learning and relationship building. They help group members value one another so that everyone grows more comfortable sharing deep, meaningful things.

- **Priority:** Be here. What we are doing matters.
- **Confidentiality:** What is said here stays here.
- **Respect and Honor:** Give everyone room to share and grow
- **Welcoming:** We will pray for and invite others to join our group and fill the empty chair.

We strive to create an environment where everyone can be real, open, and honest.

What We Do in Groups?

Our groups do five things together:

- **Connect:** have fun building relationships and doing life together
 - Recommend gender-based groups (men with men and ladies with ladies) for the last meeting of the month.
- **Grow:** study and grow through conversation-based learning
 - Sermon based small group studies and 30 essential Bible stories
- **Serve:** make a difference by serving together two times a year
 - Need list of serving opportunities before group season starts
- **Go:** pray for people and fill the empty chair by inviting others
- **Worship:** groups worship together frequently
 - Small Group Sundays - sit together, celebrate being connected to community

Life-change happens best in a Biblical small group.

The Good, the Bad, and The Ugly

The journey of God's people has led them to the doorstep of the Promised Land. With their future before them and the hand of God working on their behalf, we see a familiar story. We see a story of a people who get it right sometimes but fail miserably many times. Why is this story so familiar? Because it's our story, too. Step into this real life look at the books of Joshua, Judges, and Ruth to learn how to deal with the good, the bad, and the ugly parts of life.

Be Strong and Courageous

Sermon Date: April 8

Moses died and Joshua would soon lead God's people into the Promised Land. God charged Joshua to lead with two qualities: strength and courage. Both would be required but as Joshua would soon learn, He couldn't display strength or courage without the help and hand of God.

God's Victory, God's Way

Sermon Date: April 15

As the people of God inhabited the land, He wanted them to do things His way. He wanted to give them victory in a way that they would trust and obey Him more. As they conquered Jericho, sin entered the camp and God taught His people an important lesson: for it to be God's victory, it has to be done God's way.

Failure to Learn

Sermon Date: April 22

Through the book of Judges, we read the story of Israel's leaders. Some got it right. Others didn't. One judge who got it famously wrong was Samson. What was it that caused him to fail? He didn't learn from his failure. Instead, he repeated it.

Loyalty that Lasts

Sermon Date: April 29

The book of Ruth is a beautiful story of loyalty and love. It's the type of love that is desperately needed today. Ruth shows us how to live with loyalty. As we learn from Ruth, you can take your next step to living with loyalty that lasts.

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

Moses died and Joshua would soon lead God's people into the Promised Land. God charged Joshua to lead with two qualities: strength and courage. Both would be required but as Joshua would soon learn, He couldn't display strength or courage without the help and hand of God.

Get Talking

Who is the most courageous person that you know? How does this person show their strength and courage?

WATCH THE VIDEO

¹ After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: ² "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. ³ I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. ⁴ Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. ⁵ No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. ⁶ Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

⁷ "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. ⁸ Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:1-9

Discuss and Apply the Message

Why do you think that God told Joshua three times in nine verses that he should?

How would Joshua's strength and courage be tested and tried as he led the people of Israel?

How does the fall of Jericho show that Joshua was receiving strength and power from God?

What does it look like today for us to be strong and courageous based on our relationship with God?

How does God give us strength and courage today?

When you are in a situation where you need God's strength and courage, what do you do?

Are you facing a situation now where you need strength and courage from God? How can we help?

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY GOD'S VICTORY, GOD'S WAY

As the people of God inhabited the land, He wanted them to do things His way. He wanted to give them victory in a way that they would trust and obey Him more. As they conquered Jericho, sin entered the camp and God taught His people an important lesson: for it to be God's victory, it has to be done God's way.

Get Talking

Tell us what God is up to in your life and what you are learning right now.

WATCH THE VIDEO

*¹⁵ On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. ¹⁶ The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, "Shout! For the Lord has given you the city!" ¹⁷ The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the Lord. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent. ¹⁸ But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. ¹⁹ All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the Lord and must go into his treasury." **Joshua 6:15-19***

*¹ But the Israelites were unfaithful in regard to the devoted things; Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of them. So the Lord's anger burned against Israel. **Joshua 7:1***

Discuss and Apply the Message

Why did God limit the people's ability to take silver, gold, bronze and iron for themselves?

Why would Achan take some of the prohibited items?

Keep reading Joshua 7. How did Joshua know the Lord's hand was no longer with them?

How did the sin of one man bring trouble on all of the people?

On Sunday, Mike said three very challenging things when it comes to sin in the camp today:

1. You can hide your sin, but your sin is never hidden.
2. Don't expect the blessing of God when you don't obey God.
3. A little sin is a big problem.

Which of these was the hardest to hear? Which of these have you seen true in your own life?

How can we respond to sin with God's grace instead of hiding it, ignoring it, and dismissing it?

Read Colossians 3:5-11. What can you do this week to achieve God's victory, God's way?

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY FAILURE TO LEARN

Through the book of Judges, we read the story of Israel's leaders. Some got it right. Others didn't. One judge who got it famously wrong was Samson. What was it that caused him to fail? He didn't learn from his failure. Instead, he repeated it.

Get Talking

What is one thing that you have learned or experienced in the past that you never want to repeat in the future?

WATCH THE VIDEO

⁴ Some time later, he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah. ⁵ The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, "See if you can lure him into showing you the secret of his great strength and how we can overpower him so we may tie him up and subdue him. Each one of us will give you eleven hundred shekels of silver."

⁶ So Delilah said to Samson, "Tell me the secret of your great strength and how you can be tied up and subdued."

⁷ Samson answered her, "If anyone ties me with seven fresh bowstrings that have not been dried, I'll become as weak as any other man."

⁸ Then the rulers of the Philistines brought her seven fresh bowstrings that had not been dried, and she tied him with them. ⁹ With men hidden in the room, she called to him, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" But he snapped the bowstrings as easily as a piece of string snaps when it comes close to a flame. So the secret of his strength was not discovered.

¹⁰ Then Delilah said to Samson, "You have made a fool of me; you lied to me. Come now, tell me how you can be tied."

¹¹ He said, "If anyone ties me securely with new ropes that have never been used, I'll become as weak as any other man."

¹² So Delilah took new ropes and tied him with them. Then, with men hidden in the room, she called to him, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" But he snapped the ropes off his arms as if they were threads.

¹³ Delilah then said to Samson, "All this time you have been making a fool of me and lying to me. Tell me how you can be tied."

He replied, "If you weave the seven braids of my head into the fabric on the loom and tighten it with the pin, I'll become as weak as any other man." So while he was sleeping, Delilah took the seven braids of his head, wove them into the fabric ¹⁴ and tightened it with the pin.

Again she called to him, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" He awoke from his sleep and pulled up the pin and the loom, with the fabric.

¹⁵ Then she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when you won't confide in me? This is the third time you have made a fool of me and haven't told me the secret of your great strength." ¹⁶ With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was sick to death of it.

¹⁷ So he told her everything. "No razor has ever been used on my head," he said, "because I have been a Nazirite dedicated to God

from my mother's womb. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man."
¹⁸ When Delilah saw that he had told her everything, she sent word to the rulers of the Philistines, "Come back once more; he has told me everything." So the rulers of the Philistines returned with the silver in their hands. ¹⁹ After putting him to sleep on her lap, she called for someone to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him. And his strength left him.
²⁰ Then she called, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" He awoke from his sleep and thought, "I'll go out as before and shake myself free." But he did not know that the Lord had left him.
Judges 16:4-20

Discuss and Apply the Message

What made Samson so powerful and able to defend, lead the people of Israel?

What weakness ran throughout Samson's life that eventually led to his downfall?

How did Delilah and the Philistines leverage this to hurt him?

Why did Samson not learn the first or second time that Delilah tricked him?

How are we like Samson when it comes to learning from the past?

If we don't learn from the past, what should we expect in the future?

What can we do today, so we don't repeat yesterday's problems tomorrow?

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY LOYALTY THAT LASTS

The book of Ruth is a beautiful story of loyalty and love. It's the type of love that is desperately needed today. Ruth shows us how to live with loyalty. As we learn from Ruth, you can take your next step to living with loyalty that lasts.

Get Talking

What is one way that God has used this group to help you this year?

WATCH THE VIDEO

¹ In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. ² The man's name was Elimelek, his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there.

*³ Now Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴ They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth (name means friendship). After they had lived there about ten years, ⁵ both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband. **Ruth 1:1-5***

*¹⁶ But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me." ¹⁸ When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her. **Ruth 1:16-22***

Discuss and Apply the Message

How did Ruth 1:16-22, set the foundation for the future of Ruth and Naomi's relationship?

Do you agree or disagree with this statement: As Believers in Jesus Christ, we should be known for our loyalty? Are there any areas in life where it's OK for believers to not be loyal?

Mike taught that we should be examples of loyalty in three areas:

- Loyalty to God
- Loyalty to People
- Loyalty to Commitments

What do each of these look like day-to-day life?

Where have you seen yourself grow in these areas of loyalty? Where do you need to continue to grow?

How can this group stay connected and be with one another this summer?