

Faithfulness in Setbacks

Message from 2/2/25

TALK IT OVER

Key Scripture

7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. **8** Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. **9** Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Galatians 6:7-9 NIV

BIG IDEA: Fruitfulness comes from consistency.

If we don't give up, we will reap a harvest but first:

1. We need to know our why.

When we have a compelling reason, we'll more likely be consistent and we will focus our efforts on what matters most regardless of the obstacles, odds, or setbacks.

2. We need to plan to be imperfect.

Consistency is not the same as perfection. Having a setback or failing and trying again is part of the process. Every time we try again we make progress so plan for setbacks.

Just show up and honor God. When we know our why and plan to be imperfect, we can experience fruitfulness, and with God's help, we will pursue living well and doing better.

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Have you ever made a New Year's Resolution? What was it and why did you make it?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Which part of this message was most impactful for you and why?
- Which word or phrase from the Key Scriptures speaks to you most?

Start sharing. Choose a few questions to create openness.

- In the past have you tried to be consistent with something? If so, did it work? Why or why not?
- In what way is God inviting you to do good and live better? Where is God calling you to be consistent? Why?

Start doing. Commit to a step to live out this week.

- Ask God what he wants you to do consistently to live well and do better. Then ask why he wants you to do that and how you can plan for imperfection. Implement your plan and record your progress.
- Share the above with someone in your small group and plan together how you can keep in touch and encourage each other through setbacks that may occur.

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power for each other.

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for our special time together today learning and supporting each other. Please lead us to know how we each can strive to do good and live better. Clarify for us the consistent actions that you want us to take and help us to truly understand and internalize the compelling reason why we are to do so. We ask that you also prepare each of us for setbacks, so that we may once again celebrate by being consistent in our efforts, making progress, being fruitful, and honoring you by doing so. Trusting in your plan for us, we pray this in Jesus' name, amen.