

Lessons From Zerubbabel

Small Group Discussion Guide

"Lessons From Zerubbabel" -- Pastor Linda Hufton

1. SERMON RECAP

In this message, I walked us through Zechariah 4:6, where God reminds Zerubbabel that the temple would not be rebuilt through human strength or personal ability, but only through the Spirit of God. I showed us that the "great mountain" standing in Zerubbabel's way -- years of delay, opposition, and discouragement -- was no match for the grace and power of God spoken over it. Just like Zerubbabel was called to pick up his tools and finish what he started, we are each called to speak to our mountains, trust God's Spirit, and complete the assignments He has placed in our hands.

2. KEY SCRIPTURE

Zechariah 4:6 (NIV)

"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the Lord Almighty."

3. ICE BREAKER

If you could instantly remove one "mountain" from your daily life -- something that just keeps getting in your way -- what would it be? (Keep it light -- it can be something as simple as traffic or a stubborn appliance!)

4. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Getting into the Word

I explained that "might" refers to collective external resources -- like money, people, and influence -- while "power" refers to inner personal strength, skill, and determination. Zerubbabel had both, and still couldn't finish the job on his own. What does that tell us about the limits of even our very best human efforts when it comes to the things God calls us to do?

2. Identifying Our Mountains

I described how the "great mountain" in Zechariah 4:7 wasn't a physical mountain -- it represented years of difficulty, opposition, and impossible circumstances. What kinds of things in your own life might qualify as a "mountain range" (not just one obstacle, but a whole collection of them)? How does naming them honestly

change the way you approach them?

3. The Power of Spoken Grace

I talked about the two-word declaration -- "Grace to it!" -- that Zerubbabel was told to shout over his mountain. Why do you think God would instruct someone to speak over an obstacle rather than simply pray silently about it? How does Mark 11:23 connect to this idea of speaking directly to the mountain?

4. Finishing What God Started

I emphasized that God specifically said Zerubbabel's hands would finish the temple -- not someone else's. Have any of you set down something God called you to -- a ministry, a relationship, a goal, a habit of prayer -- because it got hard or took too long? What would it look like to pick it back up?

5. The Unseen Impact

I shared the story of Pastor Jeff Perry, who was led to Christ through a simple hitchhiker encounter and a gospel tract -- and that stranger never knew the thousands of lives that were eventually touched because of that one act of obedience. How does knowing that we may never see the full impact of our faithfulness in this lifetime change the way you think about the small, quiet things you do for God?

6. Heaven Is Watching

I pointed out that when Zerubbabel picked up the plumb line again, all of heaven rejoiced. How does it shift your perspective to know that your acts of obedience -- even the ones that feel small or unsuccessful -- are seen, celebrated, and recorded in eternity?

5. APPLICATION CHALLENGE

This week, speak to your mountain.

Identify one specific obstacle, fear, or long-delayed answer to prayer that has been standing in your way. Write it down on a piece of paper and label it -- call it what it is, just as God told Zerubbabel to address his mountain directly. Then, every day this week, speak Mark 11:23 and Zechariah 4:7 out loud over it. Declare: "You shall become a plain. Grace to it!" At your next group meeting, share one thing you noticed -- in your attitude, your faith, or your circumstances -- as a result.

6. PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for fresh empowerment by the Holy Spirit -- that each person in your group would move beyond trusting their own resources and abilities, and lean fully into what only God's Spirit can accomplish through them.
- Pray over the specific mountains in your group -- take a moment to let anyone who is willing name their mountain out loud, and then as a group, speak grace and God's power over each one together.
- Pray for courage to pick up what has been set down -- that anyone who has walked away from a God-given

assignment, ministry, or calling would feel heaven's encouragement this week to pick up the plumb line again and keep building.

7. MEMORY VERSE

Zechariah 4:6 (NIV)

"'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty."

Leader's Note: You know your group best! If conversation is slow, start with Question 5 -- the hitchhiker story tends to open hearts quickly. If your group is going deep, feel free to linger on Questions 4 and 6. The goal isn't to get through every question -- it's to leave every person feeling seen, encouraged, and ready to speak to their mountain this week.