

Always Forward

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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Based on the sermon by Pastor Mirek Hufton

1. SERMON RECAP

Pastor Mirek Hufton challenged the congregation to move beyond goal-driven living and embrace a purpose-driven life centered on knowing Jesus Christ more deeply. He reminded us that God knew each of us before we were born and has placed a specific calling and destiny on every life, pointing to Jeremiah 1:5 as the foundation for that truth. He pressed the church to press forward in 2021, shedding everything that holds us back from a deeper, more surrendered relationship with Jesus.

2. KEY SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:29

"For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters."

3. ICE BREAKER

Think of a time you set a goal and either reached it or fell short of it. How did reaching or missing that goal affect your sense of purpose? Share briefly with the group.

4. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Pastor Mirek drew a distinction between being goal-driven and being purpose-driven, arguing that goals are submitted to purpose rather than the other way around. What do you think the difference looks like in everyday life? Can you think of a personal example where chasing a goal actually pulled you away from your deeper purpose?
2. He pointed to Romans 8:29 and said that God's primary interest is in our character, not our comfort, and that we were created to become like Jesus Christ. How does that idea sit with you honestly? In what areas of your life do you find yourself more focused on comfort than on character?

3. Pastor Mirek described how Paul said his one consuming passion was to know Christ, and he challenged the group to ask themselves whether knowing Jesus is genuinely their one priority or whether it has become one item among many on a crowded list. What tends to compete most for that top spot in your own life?

4. He talked about how the closer we get to Jesus, the less self-centered we become, and the further we drift from him, the more life becomes about our own wants, feelings, and comfort. Where do you see that pattern playing out in your own experience, either positively or negatively?

5. Pastor Mirek referenced Jesus in John 17, saying that Jesus came to glorify the Father by finishing the work he was given to do, and he held that up as a model for every believer. What do you believe the specific work is that God has given you to do in this season of your life? What is making it difficult to pursue that wholeheartedly?

6. He challenged the congregation to take a risk and sell out completely to Jesus, saying that the priests in Joshua's account had to step into the floodwaters before the miracle happened. Is there a step of obedience you have been holding back on? What would it look like for you to put your foot in the water this week?

5. APPLICATION CHALLENGE

This week, each group member should set aside one specific thirty-minute block of time, chosen before leaving this meeting and written down, to be alone with God in prayer with no phone, no background noise, and no agenda other than asking God one question: "What is the work you have given me to do right now?" Come back to the group next week prepared to share what you sensed, even if the answer felt incomplete or surprising.

6. PRAYER POINTS

- Pray that each group member would develop a genuine, growing hunger to know Jesus personally rather than simply knowing about him, and that this hunger would shape every decision made in the coming week.
 - Pray for courage where group members are aware of a specific step of obedience they have been avoiding, asking God to meet them at the moment they choose to act, just as the waters parted when the priests stepped forward.
 - Pray that the group as a whole would become increasingly purpose-driven rather than comfort-driven, and that their shared commitment to pressing forward would sharpen and encourage one another throughout the year.
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7. MEMORY VERSE

Romans 8:29

"For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the

firstborn among many brothers and sisters."