

Keep Going Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Overall, are you quick or slow to ask for help?
2. Do you have any routines or traditions that you have been practicing for a really long time?

Read the following passage: Luke 12:35-40.

Jesus here speaks about an interim period between his resurrection and his powerful return to earth to bring about a climactic transition to a new age. It's likely that Jesus' original audience didn't fully understand everything he was referring to. They believed that Jesus would, in short order, reestablish God's reign, restore the Temple, and crush Israel's enemies. They did not expect the Messiah to undergo a shameful death via crucifixion, to rise again three days later, and then to wait in heaven before returning to the earth in glory. The crowds were hoping God would exalt Israel immediately, but this was not God's plan. God's people need to persevere and maintain a posture of "readiness" over a long period of time.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Research indicates that we tend to underestimate the amount of time and money it will take to complete a project. (This is known as the Planning Fallacy.) Why do you think this is?
2. Why do you think we often experience delays when we ask God to act on our behalf? Popular Christian speaker Luis Palau believes God responds to our prayers in four broad categories:
 - "Yes! I thought you'd never ask!"
 - "No, I love you too much."
 - "Yes, but not yet."
 - "Yes, and here's more!"

Can you think of times when God has answered your prayers in one of these four ways? Explain.

3. The Lord's Supper is one of the few traditions that Jesus instructed his followers to keep. How might this "meal of remembrance" help us to persevere?
4. The Lord's Supper reminds us that we are connected to something much bigger than ourselves. How does this tradition remind us that we are connected to each of the following?

- God's grand story of redemption
 - Generations of believers who have gone before us
 - Jesus himself
 - The community of believers in the present
5. When the disciples began arguing about who among them was considered to be the greatest, Jesus exhorted them to take the posture of a servant. How might the following mindset help us persevere: "I am here to serve God and to serve people?"
 6. We often give up when we experience failure. Describe what you consider to be a healthy mindset toward failure. Peter had a major failure when he denied having any association with Jesus. What can we do to keep going after a major moral, spiritual, or relational failure?
 7. What can you do this week to persevere in your commitment to God's purposes?

Pray