



SERMON

SMALL GROUPS

Do Something

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

- This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. After considering the needs of your group, you may choose one of the following options:
 - ◆ one section of questions
 - ◆ one or two questions from each section
- Feel free to adapt the format to meet the needs of your group. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, add Scripture and ask suitable questions. Remember that this is only a guide.
- Personal application is key to everyone's growth and should be included in every discussion. When asked how he or she intends to apply a certain principle a group member may say, "I need to spend more time in the Bible and in prayer." It is important for you to help group members make applications that are more specific and commit to a specific plan of action by asking, for example, "How are you going to begin?" An example is to get up 30 minutes earlier each morning, spending 15 minutes reading the Bible and 10 minutes in prayer. Encourage each group member to be accountable to the group for personal progress at the next meeting.
- As the leader your goal is to help bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their need for personal life change. Ultimately you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.



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Introduction

Fall is the time of year when people get seriously refocused on what they need to do, what they need to accomplish and get busy doing it! School cranks up, folks are headed off to college and intern programs, vacation days are spent, the boat gets put away for the season and now it's time to recalibrate and get busy. This lesson is not about just being busy but getting "unstuck" from places in life that have held us in a non-productive or destructive pattern.

[Philippians 2: 13]

It is God who works in you **to will** and **to act** in order **to fulfill** his good purpose.

God-given desire + action = fulfilling God's good purpose!

Are we waiting on God or is God waiting on us?

When life and business and relationships hit an impasse or season of stagnation, successful people do something instead of nothing!

Wise / Successful people ask these kinds of questions:

- Does the situation have to stay this way?
- What can I do to make the situation better?
- What's keeping me from doing something now?
- If I can't fix the current problems by myself, who do I need to involve to bring change?
- What's the first thing that needs to be done?



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If this is the response of the wise, what is the response of fools when life is not working out?

[Matthew 28:18]

Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. **Therefore, go** and make disciples of all the nations,

[Acts 1:8]

“You will receive power and then you will be.....”

“People who are successful in their spiritual lives live with a strong sense of ownership and responsibility regarding God’s call and purpose for their lives!”

-They spend less time waiting and more energy initiating-

In our text today The armies of Syria had surrounded the City and region of Samaria; (which, at that time, was the capital of Israel and the home of the King of ISRAEL) It was a bleak situation as God called the prophet Elisha to bring the Word of the Lord and rescue those suffering under the rule of the Syrians. The Syrians had “laid siege” to the city and region of Samaria, which meant they had surrounded the city, cut off the water supply, burned the fields and crops and starved out their opponents. This was a brutal act of war and torture!



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Key Scripture

[2 Kings 7]

³ Now there were four men with leprosy sitting at the entrance of the city gates. “Why should we sit here waiting to die?” they asked each other. ⁴ “We will starve if we stay here, but with the famine in the city, we will starve if we go back there. So we might as well go out and surrender to the Syrian army. If they let us live, so much the better. But if they kill us, we would have died anyway.”

⁵ So at twilight they set out for the camp of the Syrians. But when they came to the edge of the camp, no one was there! ⁶ For the Lord had caused the Syrian army to hear the clatter of speeding chariots and the galloping of horses and the sounds of a great army approaching. “The king of Israel has hired the Hittites and Egyptians to attack us!” they cried to one another. ⁷ So they panicked and ran into the night, abandoning their tents, horses, donkeys, and everything else, as they fled for their lives.

⁸ When the lepers arrived at the edge of the camp, they went into one tent after another, eating and drinking wine; and they carried off silver and gold and clothing and hid it. ⁹ Finally, they said to each other, “This is not right. This is a day of good news, and we aren’t sharing it with anyone! If we wait until morning, some calamity will certainly fall upon us. Come on, let’s go back and tell the people at the palace.”

¹⁰ So they went back to the city and told the gatekeepers what had happened. “We went out to the Syrian camp,” they said, “and no one was there! The horses and donkeys were tethered and the tents were all in order, but there wasn’t a single person around!” ¹¹ Then the gatekeepers shouted the news to the people in the palace.



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If you continue to do what you are currently doing, seeing the results you are currently seeing, is that going to take you to the place where you want to end up?

4 things the lepers did:

1. They broke the predictable cycles of their life
2. They took a risk!

“Your preferable future requires getting up and moving toward risk”

use your own scenario to evaluate:

- a. is the risk worth taking?
- b. What is the outcome if I don't?
- c. What is the potential if I do?

3. They Eliminated excuses

4. They moved in the direction that God was moving

[Phil 2:13]

God is at work in you causing you to **both desire and act according to** His good purpose!



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CONCLUSION:

DO SOMETHING:

Here are a few general recommendations that might assist you in getting unstuck and igniting fresh fire in you;

- Give something away (break through the limits of your generosity)
- Serve once a month with Adopt a Block / City Impact / Storehouse
- Randomly encourage 10 people (buy a box of cards)
- Read Through the Bible (starting today!) www.readcampaign.com
- Launch into a 14 Day “Daniel Fast” (personal pursuit of God)
- Set alarm clock 30 min. earlier (upgrade your personal devotions)
- Ask your neighbors if there’s any projects they need help with
- Start a small group! (at lease join one)
- Plan on taking a mission’s trip to another nation this year
- Apologize now to anyone who is in need of one
- Lovingly confront anyone or any situation that needs it
- Find a new area to serve in the church

(Create your personal list)



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Small Group Questions

1. How does a wise person balance desire and action on a daily basis? How do you know when to wait, or when to move? When is it time for change?
2. Have you ever felt that you were spiritually "running laps," in a routine, but not really moving forward or getting anywhere new? What did that look like?
3. When was a time that some spiritual discipline created holy desire in you? (when desire came as a result of obedience or diligence)
4. If you are in a season of "feeling stuck," what is keeping you from doing something now?
5. If you can't fix the current cycle by yourself, who do you need to involve to bring change?
6. What are some predictable cycles of life that can be broken (either for you personally, or what you have observed) ? What are possible rewards from the risks?
7. What are excuses you can eliminate (for the things that hinder your personal, spiritual progress)? What is a direction that God is already moving in right now, that you can join Him in? In other words, where is the Holy Spirit trying to lead you?