SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Message Series: Double Dog Dare
Message Title: Get In the Game
Date: February 7, 2016

Passage Overview:
Welcome to Spring Semester 2016! As you embrace the teachings of the upcoming weeks, you will have opportunities to grow both individually and in community. In scripture and in life, God makes it clear we cannot flourish on our own. Living in a community is a necessity for our personal growth. It’s much like being a member of a team. A primary theme for this week’s message on career is built on the idea that we are part of a bigger team, working together and lifting one another up to accomplish victory.

Icebreaker:
Share with the group some of the “teams” you are or were a member of – a family, a work team, a sports team, former small group, or a team built around a hobby. Describe your role on the team and how the other team members have helped you power through battles or challenges.

Discussion:
(Leaders: The questions that follow are designed to stir reflection and discussion on this week’s primary message points. Please read through them prior to your meeting, so you can be prepared to prayerfully pace your group well. And remember, as leader, your goal is to promote increased biblical awareness, as well as individual self awareness – a combination that with the help of the Holy Spirit, results in revelation and…transformation!)

Get In the Game
In this week’s message, PK explained how achieving “Super Bowl” sized dreams involves three distinct phases. Phase One is Awesome Possibilities, Phase Two is Battling through Problems, and Phase Three is Celebration of Victories.

Joseph is a great biblical example who lived out this cycle in his life. So is the Super Bowl Winning Center Jeff Saturday. As a group, we’ll discuss how these same three phases might apply to our own careers. Even if you don’t go to a traditional workplace, a stay-at-home Mom or homemaker is a career as well.
Part One: Awesome Possibilities

Questions for Reflection

- Kevin pointed out how the world desires to separate the notions of sacred and secular, making business a separate pursuit from our spiritual growth. To what degree is this true or not true in your life?

- **Read Genesis 2:15** to see that work was God’s idea from the very beginning. God gifted Adam to work the Garden of Eden, and Adam took great joy in his work. What gifting has God given you to do your work? How has He used your secular work to further His Kingdom, even if it's indirectly?

- What would constitute a “Super Bowl” sized victory in your own career?

- Joseph is an exceptional biblical example of this cycle of Awesome Possibilities, Battling through Problems, and Celebration. **Read Genesis 37: 19-20.** At that moment, Joseph had a choice to make when forces outside of him sought to destroy his dreams. Jeff Saturday shared an instance in his own life where he was not drafted for any NFL team, and he had to make a choice to battle through this challenge, even in seeming defeat, or give up. Recall a specific moment or season in your life where your “awesome possibility” turned to a “battle?”

- Give examples of ways you could invite God to be more present in your workplace.

Part Two: Battling through Problems

Read Romans 8: 31-37

Questions for Reflection

- Today, do you feel more like a conqueror, or the conquered? Explain your answer.

- What key word or phrase in this passage jumps out to you as a way to better arm yourself to face a challenge?

- Verse 34 says “Who is he that condemns?” As believers, we all suffer condemnation from time to time. Share with the group a time you felt condemned by the enemy? How did God use that in your life to ultimately help you grow?

In the message, PK encourages us to battle through discouragement, through grind, and through conflict so that we can emerge victorious, as more than conquerors.

- Which of these three - discouragement, grind or conflict – resonate most with you right now? Why is this currently a struggle for you?

- Share your strategy to help “reset” yourself to place of grace and strength in Christ when you feel the weight of challenges. Perhaps there is a strategy another group member shares that will resonate with you.
PK dared us to get better at our career. Joseph and Jeff Saturday both “took the dare” and emerged victorious. What challenge are you currently facing in your work life where you can grow by taking the dare to get better? What would victory look like for you?

Part Three: Celebration
Read Ephesians 2: 4-5 and 8-10
Questions for Reflection

- In the passage, Paul points out that we are saved by grace, but also that God has equipped us to do good works. This good work, however, will not get us a pass to heaven. It is only God’s grace through Christ, and our willingness to accept it, that will result in our salvation. What kind of good work has God equipped you to do?
- To what degree have you felt you could earn your way into heaven by your good works? If someone were to say to you, “I believe I’m going to heaven because I’m a good person,” what would be your response?
- How do you celebrate a Super Bowl sized victory in your life?

Wrap-Up/Close:
Think about a current possibility or battle you are facing, and how you might invite God to be there alongside you. How could that change the outcome?

Your small group is your “team” for the next few months. How would you define victory in terms of your small group setting? New friendships? Better knowledge of God’s word? More consistent prayer life? Positive life change? Can you come up with a team goal or mission statement for your group?

Throughout the Week: (Optional)
- Go to 12stone.com and pull up the message from this week. Underneath the sermon notes is a button to watch the Jeff Saturday interview in its entirety. Watch the complete interview and think how it might speak possibility into your life.
- Get an accountability partner to specifically pray with you over career challenges. It might be someone on the job, or a believer in the same line of work as you. Jot down what victory would look like to you in these situations, and refer back to it when you’re struggling.