



Small Group Sermon Guide

Feb 25 & 26, 2017, Pastor Jamie Rasmussen

Steadfastness | 2 Peter 1:5-6

^{ESV} **2 Peter 1:5-6** For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with *steadfastness*...

Main Point: *Stay in the ring.*

Take Home Question: *He persevered so that He could have you. Will you persevere to have Him?*

GETTING TO KNOW ME

Instructions: The purpose of these questions is to generate responses that are self-revealing and informative. Feel free to ask all of these questions to your group or simply choose the one that best fits your group.

1. What helps you stay in the ring with God? What in your past has caused you to leave the ring?
2. What's currently tempting you to leave the ring?

INTO THE BIBLE

Instructions: The purpose of these questions is to draw group members into the Bible to discover truth from passages that were not the primary text for the weekend message.

1. Pastor Rustin explained the importance of intimacy with Christ when pursuing steadfastness. Read Luke 10:38-42. What's the enemy to intimacy? Why does it feel like an enemy to intimacy? What does intimacy look like in this story? What does intimacy look like in your life? Be specific.
2. Pastor Rustin also spoke about the dangers of idolatry. Tim Keller says about idolatry, "When you look to some created thing to give you what only God can give you; that is idolatry. And idol is anything in your life that is so central to your life that you can't have a meaningful life if you lose it." With this in mind, read 1 Corinthians 10:1-14. How does this passage teach that Christians are just as susceptible to idolatry today? Why is this a great danger? How did the people of God demonstrate idolatry in this passage? Can you relate to any of these? Share with your group. What's Paul's prescription for us? How does verse 13 give us great encouragement?
3. Read Hebrews 10:35-39. What does God promise those who persevere? What does He mean by "when you have done the will of God?" How is this an encouragement to you in perseverance?

4. Read James 1:3-4. What produces steadfastness? What the result of remaining steadfast? How have you seen steadfastness produces holiness in your life?

APPLICATION

Instructions: The purpose of these questions is to apply the main points from the weekend message.

1. Do you believe that Jesus is in your corner or do you feel like you're fighting against Him? Why?
2. Why are the "spiritual markers" of faith, discernment, and intimacy so essential in perseverance? What spiritual marker needs to increase in your life? How do you plan to make it grow?
3. How do idols make it difficult to persevere? What type of idol needs to die in your life - comfort or success? Share with your group. How do you plan to kill it? What would it look like to put Christ in its place? How can your group help you?
4. Pastor Rustin did a character study of Joseph, Esther, and Peter Which one one did you relate to the most? Why?
5. How does Christ's perseverance encourage your perseverance?

PRAYER

Instructions: In addition to your normal time of prayer, please spend some time praying through the following points from the sermon.

1. Pray that God would increase your faith, discernment, and intimacy so that you can persevere.
2. Pray that God would help you pull down any idols.