



# Welcome

**SERIES: BELIEVE FOR IT**

**Message: Believe God for Your Future**  
**Dr. Lance Watson, Senior Pastor**

**PRAYER:** God, you hold the future in your hands. You are the Source of every good thing. We thank You for the seeds sown in the past—for the prayers of our ancestors, the sacrifices of those who came before us, and the quiet acts of faithfulness that have grown into the shade we sit under today. We recognize that we are reaping a harvest of grace that we did not always plant ourselves. We look toward the seeds yet to be sown, we ask for a heart of gratitude. We rest in the promise that You are able to make all grace abound. We trust that as we plant for the future, You will provide the “all sufficiency” we need so that we may abound in every good work. Grant us the vision to see the harvest before it breaks the soil, and the patience to trust Your timing. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

**ICEBREAKER:** What one thing would you like to see God do in this new year?

**INTRODUCTION:** Paul’s teaching in 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 establishes a spiritual “law of the harvest,” where our current actions serve as the architectural blueprint for our future reality. By using the metaphor of sowing and reaping, Paul argues that the future is not a random occurrence but a direct reflection of the quality and quantity of what we invest today; a “sparing” investment yields a thin future, while “bountiful” sowing creates an abundant one. Crucially, he emphasizes that the heart’s intent—giving with gratitude rather than obligation—is what invites God’s “abounding grace,” ensuring that the planter has more than enough resources to continue doing good. Ultimately, Paul’s message is that by choosing to act with intentional generosity now, we secure a future characterized by both divine sufficiency and an ever-increasing capacity to impact the world. Can you believe God for that?

**BIBLE STUDY: Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NIV):** Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.<sup>7</sup> Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.<sup>8</sup> And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. **What was your biggest takeaway from the message?** What’s one thing you learned? What questions came to mind as you listened to the message? What points did you find most insightful?
2. **The Quality of the Seed:** In the context of our text, “sowing” isn’t just about money; it’s about where we invest our time, energy, and kindness. If you look at your current daily habits as “seeds,” what kind of “future harvest” are you currently on track to receive? Are there areas where you realize you’ve been sowing too sparingly?

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3. **The Heart Behind the Planting:** Shaping the future requires consistency, which is hard to maintain if we feel forced or resentful. Why does the *attitude* of the planter matter as much as the *act* of planting? How does “cheerful” sowing change the way we influence the people around us (our families, workplaces, or friends)?
4. **Trusting the Growth Process:** Planting a seed requires a “waiting period” where nothing seems to be happening underground. When you try to do the right thing or invest in a long-term goal, what makes it difficult to trust that God is working in that waiting period? How does the promise of “all sufficiency” give you the courage to keep planting even when you’re tired?
5. **Visualizing the Harvest:** If our small group (or our church) began “sowing bountifully” in one specific area—such as winning others to Christ, forgiveness, mentorship, or generosity—what could this group/church look like five years from now? What is one “seed” you can commit to planting this week to help start that future?

**CHALLENGE:** What seeds are you holding onto that God is waiting for you to release?

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Take this time to share group announcements. Church wide and campus specific announcements can be found at [www.myspbc.org](http://www.myspbc.org). You can also “find, follow and like” our Facebook page at [facebook.com/myspbc](https://facebook.com/myspbc). Turn on your notifications.

**CELEBRATIONS:** Take this time to share praise reports (e.g. answered prayers, birthdays, anniversaries, promotions).

**PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAYER:** Take this time to share prayer requests. Close with prayer.

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## We Care!

**NOTICE:** As a small group leader, we depend on you to show members that we care. Here's a list of resources to help you.

### FOR PRAYER:

CALL: 804.463.2472

EMAIL: [prayer@myspbc.org](mailto:prayer@myspbc.org).

### FOR COUNSELING:

CALL: 804.643.6177

EMAIL: [care@myspbc.org](mailto:care@myspbc.org)

### TO REQUEST A HOSPITAL VISIT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (For Emergencies)

EMAIL: [ecare@myspbc.org](mailto:ecare@myspbc.org).

### TO REQUEST FUNERAL SUPPORT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (Pastor On Call)

EMAIL: [ecare@myspbc.org](mailto:ecare@myspbc.org).

### TO FIND A SUPPORT GROUP:

CALL: 804.643.6177

EMAIL: [care@myspbc.org](mailto:care@myspbc.org).

### TO REQUEST EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:

CALL: 804.643.4000

EMAIL: [emergencyassistance@myspbc.org](mailto:emergencyassistance@myspbc.org).

**TO CONTACT MY LIFE STAGE PASTOR:** CALL: 804.643.4000 and Press 1 for the Dial by Name Directory

EMAIL:

- Imagination (0-10): Vernita Williams: [Vernita.Williams@myspbc.org](mailto:Vernita.Williams@myspbc.org)
- SMB (11-19): Martina Jones-Smith: [Martina.Jones-Smith@myspbc.org](mailto:Martina.Jones-Smith@myspbc.org)
- Dreamchasers (20-29): Juan Shackelford: [juan.shackelford@myspbc.org](mailto:juan.shackelford@myspbc.org)
- Aspire (30-39): Lance Watson, Jr.: [lance.watsonjr@myspbc.org](mailto:lance.watsonjr@myspbc.org)
- Fusion (40-49): Michelle Townsend: [michelle.townsend@myspbc.org](mailto:michelle.townsend@myspbc.org)
- Encore (50-59): Lisa Johnson: [lisa.johnson@myspbc.org](mailto:lisa.johnson@myspbc.org).
- Prime Time (60-69): Maceo Freeman: [maceo.freeman@myspbc.org](mailto:maceo.freeman@myspbc.org)
- Refiners (70+): Roscoe Jones: [roscoe.jones@myspbc.org](mailto:roscoe.jones@myspbc.org)

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*GPS is a study guide based on the weekend message. The purpose of this guide is to assist small groups in study.*  
Previous GPS Guides are available online at [www.myspbc.org](http://www.myspbc.org).



## Small Group Leader Guide

*Would you like to START or JOIN a Small Group at Saint Paul's?*

Most existing groups are open to new group members, and new groups begin on a regular basis. If you have friends in a small group, ask about joining their group. If you are new to Saint Paul's and are looking for a place to connect, please feel free to contact us and we will do our best to help you find the right group.

### **Leader Tips:**

The GPS document is a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you must use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through while others will be over in a few seconds!

1. Don't teach the lesson. The lesson was taught on the weekend. Just ask questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our small groups. So, have fun with the people in your group.

## Agenda for a Small Group Gathering

### **Gathering Time**

Take 5-10 minutes to welcome everyone, catch up and if planned, share some food!

### **Discussion Time**

Here's a suggested format:

1. **Ice Breaker** – Lighthearted icebreaker question (5-10 min.)
2. **Discussion** - Discussion time, Bible study, application challenge (30-40 min.)
3. **Prayer** – Prayer requests and praying for one another (10-20 min.)
4. **Planning** – Remind the group of how we serve together (e.g. usher, sing, greet, pray, etc.)