



Welcome

Message: It's in the Lord's Hands Now
Dr. Jeffrey Johnson, Guest Preacher
Dr. Lance Watson, Senior Pastor

PRAYER: God, we confess how difficult it is to release control, yet today we choose to commit our worries, our futures, and our lives into Your loving hands. Teach us to trust Your heart as Jesus did, resting in the peace that comes from knowing You are good and faithful. Forgive us for the times we try to micro-manage our outcomes and give us the daily courage to active step back so You can lead. We empty our hands of our own plans now, trusting that what we surrender to You is always held in perfect love. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ICEBREAKER: To get everyone talking before we dive in, what is one small thing you are a total control freak about in your daily routine?

INTRODUCTION: Jesus serves as the ultimate model for what it means to completely surrender our lives to God. Even in the face of intense suffering, injustice, and death, Jesus bypassed the chaos around Him to actively place His future, His control, and His very breath into the safekeeping of God. This moment reminds us that biblical surrender isn't an act of defeated resignation or giving up, but a deliberate, courageous transfer of ownership. By emptying our hands of the heavy burden of micro-managing our own outcomes, we are invited to rest in the same profound peace Jesus had, trusting that whatever we entrust to God is held in sovereign love.

BIBLE STUDY: Read **St. Luke 23:46 (NKJV)**: And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, 'into your hands I commit My spirit.'" Having said this, He breathed His last.

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. When Jesus said the words of our text, He was completely surrendering His life, His future, and His ultimate control to God. What is the hardest thing for you to "commit into God's hands" right now (e.g., a broken relationship, financial stress, a career decision, or a child's future)? Why do we naturally prefer to keep our own hands on the steering wheel of those specific areas?
3. Jesus begins this final statement with a deeply intimate word: "*Father*." Trusting someone with something precious requires knowing their character. How does viewing God truly as a loving, capable *Father* change your willingness to hand over control? In contrast, what distorted views of God (e.g., viewing Him as distant, angry, or indifferent) make you want to micro-manage your own life?
4. Jesus surrendered His spirit at the very end of His earthly life, but it reflected how He lived every single day. What does "putting something into God's hands" actually look like in your daily routine? How can you tell the difference between actively trusting God with a problem versus simply being passive or giving up?

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5. When we truly place a situation into God's hands, we are relinquishing our demand for a specific outcome and trusting His sovereignty instead. Think of a time when you finally gave a situation over to God. Did the circumstances change immediately, or did you change? How does true surrender bring peace, even when the outcome isn't exactly what we originally asked for?

CHALLENGE: What one thing do you need to put in God's hands today?

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Take this time to share group announcements. Announcements can be found at www.myspbc.org. You can also “find, follow and like” our Facebook page at 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.

FOR COUNSELING:

CALL: 804.643.6177

EMAIL: care@myspbc.org

TO REQUEST A HOSPITAL VISIT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (For Emergencies)

EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST FUNERAL SUPPORT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (Pastor On Call)

EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO FIND A SUPPORT GROUP:

CALL: 804.643.6177

EMAIL: care@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:

CALL: 804.643.4000

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

*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.*



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.)