



Welcome

SERIES: BELIEVE FOR IT
Message: Don't Look Back
Dr. Lance Watson, Senior Pastor

PRAYER: God of the New Year, thank You for the seasons we have just walked through—for the victories that gave us joy, the challenges that built our character, and the quiet moments where we felt Your presence. We acknowledge that every experience, whether easy or difficult, has been a part of the story You are writing in our lives. We lay down the weight of what is behind us. We release any lingering regrets, the “what ifs,” and the pain of old wounds. Help us to stop looking back with longing or sorrow, and instead, see our history through the lens of Your grace. We thank You for the lessons learned, but we refuse to stay stuck in yesterday. Give us the courage to step into the unknown. Grant us a vision for the future that is greater than our memory of the past. Renew our minds and refresh our hope. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

ICEBREAKER: If you could pack a ‘time capsule’ of one lesson from your past to keep, but had to leave the rest of the baggage behind, what one lesson are you carrying into your future?

INTRODUCTION: Feeling stuck? Life can throw some curveballs—sometimes it’s hard to know what to do next. So, when you can’t rewind but fear is keeping you from moving forward, it’s time to choose – sit back and let life pass you by or go all in and let God do a new thing.

BIBLE STUDY: Read Genesis 19:16-17 (MSG): Lot was dragging his feet. The men grabbed Lot’s arm, and the arms of his wife and daughters—God was so merciful to them! — and dragged them to safety outside the city. When they had them outside, Lot was told, “Now run for your life! **Don’t look back!** Don’t stop anywhere on the plain — run for the hills or you’ll be swept away.”

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. In Genesis 19, God warned Lot and his family to leave his home in Sodom and not look back because he was going to destroy it. However, Lot’s wife disobeyed and looked back at the city with a longing and desire. What are some potential consequences today of looking back and longing for what we had instead of looking forward to what God has promised us?
3. Oftentimes God calls us to do things that are difficult and scary. Is there a decision or opportunity in your life that is scaring you right now? If so, what is it and what do you think you are supposed to do with it? If not, share about a time when you had to make a difficult decision. How did it go? What do you think God was teaching or showing you in that time?

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4. Sometimes we can feel stuck where we are in life because of a past sin, a broken relationship, or a betrayal. However, 2 Corinthians 3:17 says that "... the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." We know that God wants us to be free from these things. How can we experience freedom from memories of past guilt and shame?
5. It's impossible to put your best effort into something if you only have a half-hearted devotion to it. How has your devotion to your faith, family, friends, and career been lately? How can you become more devoted in each area?

CHALLENGE: Read Hebrews 12:1-3. How can you run the race of life with endurance looking ahead and fix your eyes on Jesus this week?

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Take this time to share group announcements. Church wide and campus specific 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.)