

Taking Stumbling Seriously

“Case For Christ”, part 33, Insights from Mark 9:42-50
Pastor Bob Johnson, September 11th, 2022, GPC

Jesus’ exaggerated words in context:

- addressing ministry ... (v33-37)
- addressing ministry ... (v38-41)

Focus on being ... (Matthew 25:14-30)

Four Questions To Consider:

1. What does it mean to “stumble”?

(1 Thessalonians 5:22)

2. Who are “these little ones” ?

3. What causes our “little ones” to stumble?

- H _____
(Colossians 3:21, Ephesians 6:4)
- H _____
(Proverbs 22:6)
- H _____
(Luke 6:39-42)

4. What causes us to stumble?

- When tempted by internal influence, we ...
(James 1:13-15, 2 Timothy 2:22)
- When tempted by external influence, we ...
(James 1:12, 1 Peter 5:8-9, James 1:2-4)

For a free audio or video of this message go to gracepointsd.com,
download our GPC app or follow us on Facebook or Youtube.

This Week's Discussion Guide

Welcome to our third week of our Fall Small Group Season at GPC! Our study and discussion this fall will be based on our current Sunday series at GPC called, "Case For Christ".

In this series, we are slowly unpacking the Gospel of Mark. Each week we will read and reflect on a passage from Mark's gospel and discuss ways we can apply what we reflect on to our daily lives.

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships as part of our vision at GPC to raise up committed Christ followers in a healthy church community.

Getting Started:

Each week, we typically start out with a few lighter questions to get us warmed up :).

In Mark 9:42, as Jesus and the disciples were spending some time together, Jesus draws their attention to the children that were around them.

Speaking of 'little children', what are some of your first memories as a child and/or what are some of your fun memories as child?

As an adult, have you ever had opportunities to spend time with some younger kids? If so, what did you do and what was enjoyable about it? What was stretching about it?

In the passage we looked at last Sunday from Mark 9, Jesus taught on spiritual stumbling.

Speaking of stumbling more in a physical sense, what was one of your more painful physical stumbles or accidents that you have to heal up from? How long did it take to heal up?

On a more adventurous note, what might you consider to try knowing that there might be a risk of injury involved?

Ok ... if you were guaranteed that you would not be harmed, what would you like to try? :)

Reviewing and Reflecting on last Sunday's Passage:

Let's read the main passage from last Sunday. (Mark 9:42-50)

After reading this passage and looking back on our notes from Sunday, was there a particular thought, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you or raised a question for you?

Digging Deeper:

1. Let's read again James 1:12-15 which was one of the passages from last Sunday. The Bible describes sin as appealing. There are many times when sin looks more attractive than the path of obedience. In 1 John 1:5-10, the Apostle John addresses this issue.

How does he contrast "walking in sin" and "walking in the light" in a way that could help when tempted to sin?

Sin comes in many shapes and sizes and we are not all tempted by the same sins. In Mark 9:43-48, Jesus encourages his followers to take sin seriously and strive to sin or stumble less.

In order to stumble less, it is helpful to know what sins each of us are more prone to do.

What is a sin (attitude or action) that is one of areas that you need to be more careful about?

Are there any sins you have worked hard to overcome and seen some victory over?

2. Last Sunday we heard about God's call for us to watch ourselves and make sure we are not causing others to stumble.

What guidance is given in the following verses to help us encourage others and avoid causing them to stumble?

Psalm 139:23-24, Proverbs 15:31, Proverbs 27:6, Proverbs 27:17

3. As we are encouraged to avoid sinning, we can strive to 'sin less' but we will never be 'sinless'. The great news is when we sin, we have a God who cares greatly for us, has a plan for us and sees great potential in us.

As we read through the following verses, let's discuss how these verses might apply to us.

1 John 2:17, 1 John 2:20-29

4. In Mark 9:49-50, using salt as an illustration, we are reminded of how we are called to offer ourselves to God and no longer live for ourselves. The Bible also reminds us that we shouldn't be surprised when being faithful to God brings some persecution from a world that is not following God. How do the following verses describe how we are to live as Christ followers:

2 Corinthians 5:14-15, Romans 12:1, 2 Timothy 3:12, John 15:18-19, 1 Peter 4:12-16

Wrapping Up:

What is an application from what we read or discussed together that you would like to practice in the coming days? Is there anything that came up from this week's sermon or discussion that you would like prayer for? Is there anything else on your heart that you would like to express prayer for?