

Small Group Study Guide: "Building Something Great"

Opening

- **Welcome:** Start by welcoming the group and asking everyone to share one thing they're celebrating or thankful for this week (ties into the sermon's theme of celebrating God's faithfulness).
- **Icebreaker:** "What's one thing you've built—whether physical (like a project) or intangible (like a relationship)—that you're proud of? How did it feel to see it come together?"

Sermon Recap

- Briefly summarize the sermon: Today, we're reflecting on a message about building something great—whether it's a church, a family, a business, or our own lives. The pastor shared how Freedom Church's journey reflects God's faithfulness through challenges and miracles, using 12 stones as reminders. The key points were: (1) Some things need to be worked out of us, (2) Some things need to be worked into us, and (3) It's all worth it in the end.

Discussion Questions

1. Things Worked Out of You

- **Question:** The pastor talked about how God sometimes needs to remove things—like wrong expectations, past hurts, or sin—to help us build what He's called us to. What's one thing in your life that you think God might be trying to "work out" of you right now?
- **Scripture:** John 1:45-49 (Nathanael's doubt about Nazareth). How does this story show God challenging our self-limiting beliefs?
- **Follow-Up:** Why do you think it's hard to let go of these things? What helps you trust God in that process?

2. Things Worked Into You

- **Question:** The sermon highlighted how God works new things into us—like faith, endurance, or skills—through trials and community. Can you think of a time when God built something new into your life through a tough situation or a relationship?
- **Scripture:** 1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-10 (From rejected stones to a holy priesthood). How does this passage encourage you about your identity in God's plan?
- **Follow-Up:** What's one quality or strength you'd like God to work into you as you build what He's called you to?

3. It's Worth It

- **Question:** The pastor emphasized that building something great is hard but worth it—like seeing lives changed or relationships restored. What's something you're working on now that feels challenging but you believe will be worth it? How do you stay motivated?
- **Scripture:** James 1:2-4 (Joy in trials leads to endurance). How does this perspective shift the way you view difficulties?

- **Follow-Up:** How can we remind each other of God's faithfulness when the process gets tough?

4. Personal Application

- **Question:** The sermon closed by asking, "What has God called you to build?" How would you answer that for your life right now—whether it's your faith, family, a dream, or something else?
- **Reflection:** Take a quiet moment to think: What's one step you can take this week to say "yes" to God's call, even if it's hard?

Group Activity

- **12 Stones Reflection:** Pass around a small stone or object to each person. As they hold it, ask them to share one way they've seen God's faithfulness in their life (like the 12 stones of remembrance in the sermon). This can be a powerful way to encourage the group.

Closing Prayer

- Invite group members to pray for one another based on what was shared. Then, close with this prayer (or adapt it): *"Lord, thank You for Your faithfulness as we build what You've called us to. Help us let go of what holds us back, embrace what You're working into us, and trust that it's worth it. Guide us by Your Holy Spirit and strengthen us as a community. Amen."*

Optional Take-Home Challenge

- This week, write down one thing you're asking God to "work out" of you and one thing you're asking Him to "work into" you. Spend time in prayer, the Word, or with a trusted friend to process it.