

## Small Group Study Guide: Overcoming Barriers to Building God's Call

**Objective:** To guide group members in identifying personal barriers (fear and doubt, sin and distraction, comparison and envy, comfort and complacency) and encourage actionable steps to move toward God's calling to build something great (family, faith, purpose, or ministry).

### Welcome and Connection:

- Greet everyone warmly and thank them for joining.
- Icebreaker Activity: *"Two Truths and a Dream"* – Each person shares two true facts about themselves and one dream or goal they have (big or small). This helps set the stage for discussing God's calling to build something great.
- Briefly summarize the sermon: The speaker outlined four barriers—fear and doubt, sin and distraction, comparison and envy, and comfort and complacency—that keep us from building what God has called us to, whether it's a family, personal growth, or a bigger purpose.

### Opening Prayer:

- Ask God to open hearts, reveal barriers, and inspire courage to take steps toward His calling.

### Scripture Reading:

- As a group, read **James 1:6-7**: *"Be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea... Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord."*
- Ask: *How does this verse set the tone for overcoming barriers to building something great?*

### Interactive Activity: Barrier Breakdown:

- Write the four barriers on a whiteboard or paper: Fear and Doubt, Sin and Distraction, Comparison and Envy, Comfort and Complacency.
- Give each person a notecard. Ask them to anonymously write down which barrier they feel most stuck by right now (no details, just the barrier name). Collect the cards and tally the results on the board.
- Share the results (e.g., "Three people chose fear and doubt"). This shows the group they're not alone and sets up the discussion.

### Discussion Questions:

#### 1. Fear and Doubt:

- The sermon uses Jonah's story to show how fear can paralyze us. Read **Jonah 1:3** briefly. Why do you think Jonah ran from God's call? What fears (failure, rejection, the unknown) hold you back from stepping out in faith?
- The speaker says, *"The only difference between fear and faith is your focus."* How can focusing on God instead of our fears change our perspective? Share an example of a time you overcame fear by trusting God.
- Quick Challenge: What's one fear you can pray about this week to shift your focus to faith?

## 2. Sin and Distraction:

- Read **Romans 6:23**: *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”* How does sin separate us from God’s purpose, and how do distractions lead us into sin loops?
- The sermon mentions distractions like selfishness or chasing pleasures. What’s a distraction in your life that pulls you away from God’s calling? How can you redirect that time or energy?
- Quick Challenge: Name one practical step to address a distraction (e.g., limit phone time, join a prayer group).

## 3. Comparison and Envy:

- Read **Mark 12:31**: *“Love your neighbor as yourself.”* Why does comparison lead to hating ourselves or others, as the sermon describes? Have you ever felt discouraged by comparing yourself to someone else’s progress?
- The speaker says, *“The only person you are allowed to compare yourself to is who you were yesterday.”* How can focusing on your own growth free you to build what God has for you?
- Quick Challenge: Write down one thing you’ve improved in recently to celebrate your progress.

## 4. Comfort and Complacency:

- Read **Matthew 13:16-17**: *“Blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear...”* How does comfort make us “dull” to God’s call, like the Pharisees? What’s an area where you’re tempted to stay comfortable instead of taking a risk?
- The sermon challenges us: *“Would you stop that addiction or deal with your past to see your family succeed?”* What’s one “safe” thing God might be asking you to leave behind to build something greater?
- Quick Challenge: Identify one small step out of your comfort zone (e.g., serve at church, start a tough conversation).

## Group Activity: Commitment Cards:

- Hand out notecards again. Ask each person to write:
  - *One barrier they want to overcome.*
  - *One specific action they’ll take this week* (e.g., pray daily about fear, confess a sin to a friend, stop following someone on social media who sparks envy, volunteer for a ministry).
- Encourage them to keep the card as a reminder or share it with a trusted friend for accountability.

## Resource Sharing:

- [www.freedomdl.com/helpme](http://www.freedomdl.com/helpme) for anyone needing help with sin or struggles. Offer to connect them with church resources privately after the meeting.

## Key Takeaway:

- The sermon reminds us that God's plan is not for us to stay stuck but to build something great by overcoming fear, sin, comparison, and complacency. Every step forward is a victory in faith.

**Closing Prayer:**

- Pray as a group, asking God to break down barriers, give strength for action steps, and draw everyone closer to His purpose. Invite members to pray aloud if comfortable, or the leader can close.