



WEEK 1 GROUP GUIDE | MESSAGE BY SHAWN JOHNSON

START

To get things started, let's go around the circle and answer this question:

Imagine you are chosen to receive a brand new vehicle, free of charge and have to pick between a two-seater sports car, an SUV, a mini-van with all the options, or a truck with a 3-inch lift kit. Which would you pick and why?

SHARE

Welcome to our new series entitled, "Heritage."

When we hear the word 'heritage,' most of us think about a legacy or maybe deeply held values; the word itself sounds stoic and lofty. When we hear 'heritage' we think of how our past has formed who we are today.

Today, Red Rocks Church is one church in 6 locations. 2 of those locations meet in prisons, and we are nearly 10,000 people in weekly attendance. We are all one church, in various buildings, but at one time, we were only one tiny location with about 50 people and one life group. What has never changed is who we are. We are imperfect people being transformed by a perfect God. All that has happened at Red Rocks Church is because of Jesus Christ at work.

If you are sitting in a group today talking about this series, the chances are you most likely weren't able to attend our first service on January 9, 2005, nor would you probably have wanted to make that journey willingly. Imagine walking through the snow through a desolate, run-down theme park only to find a tiny church having their grand opening service in a building with plumbing, electrical and pest control problems ... at least there were excited people greeting you with hot coffee; a sort of hospitable, yet apologetic peace offering for the long walk to the building!

For those of us who were there at the start, when we hear the word 'heritage,' we think of Heritage Square Theme Park and over a decade of issues as our little church grew up there. Year after year, we battled frozen pipes, electrical outages, parking problems, and constant costly construction projects. Many of you who have attended our Golden Campus have experienced many of these issues more than you would have liked. So here we are, eleven years later and it is time to leave, but as Shawn stated in the message, "the Square is going away ... our heritage never will." A location is changing, but who we are as a church family never will.

The church isn't a building, it is a body of believers; it's the people who are the church. We are those people and regardless of the building we meet in, we are still Red Rocks Church. Throughout this series, we are going to talk about how there are seasons and situations in our lives that God can use to teach us great lessons, if we are willing to listen and keep our eyes focused on Jesus Christ. So whether you were here in the beginning or this is your very first week, allow God to speak to you about your own life as we look for the lessons that God might be trying to teach us.

This week Shawn opens the series talking about being faithful in the little things in life. When we are faithful with the little things, then and only then will God entrust us with more. This is true as a church family, in our own families, and as individuals.

Lets start by reading Luke 16:10 and Matthew 25:14-29

The owner entrusted his wealth with his servants while he went away. What did the servants decide to do with what they were given?

Was there any difference in the owner's response to the servant who had five bags of gold and the servant who only had two bags of gold? Why is this important?

What is the main principle of these verses?

GROW

In the message, Shawn talked about how for so many years, Heritage Square seemed like a curse instead of a blessing. Early on, it felt counter-productive; we had all these people we wanted to reach and this somewhat embarrassing location to invite them to. But God knew exactly where we needed to be.

Looking back on it in perspective, we see that it was a large building we could actually afford, and all the highways intersected perfectly there. What we needed most was not a beautiful building, but a beautiful message to share. The tough times forced us to be scrappy and make the most of what we had. Because the rent was affordable, it helped us be an extremely generous church to the things that mattered. In fact because of our strange location in what looked like a Victorian village, people constantly commented that they liked it because it didn't seem like a stuffy church. God knew exactly why He placed us there.

Isn't this the truth in all of our lives? There are certain situations we find ourselves in and we wonder if God has got it all wrong and think 'if only this would change, then things would really turn around for me.' But so many times God reveals himself to us in the difficult times, where he is asking us to just be faithful with the opportunities we have in front of us, so he can show us what is next. God wants us to change us to look more like him; not just change our circumstance.

This week Shawn talked about the need for each of us to be thankful, obedient and to maximize the potential of what God has already given us.

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:18 and Psalm 118:24

Have you ever thought about the fact that God's will for us is for us to give thanks no matter what we face? Why do you think God desires for us to do this?

Let's also read Deuteronomy 28:2

Why is obedience so difficult when life gets tough?

Can you remember a time where you obeyed God and did the right thing when it was not easy to do? How did that strengthen your relationship with God and what did you learn through that experience?

MOVE

Regardless of our current situation or trial in life, remember this: that God wants us to be thankful, obedient, and to make the absolute best of the situation. You might feel a million miles from the place you hope to be, but God has you right where you are for a reason. God is calling you to be faithful with the little you do have with the time you have been blessed with.

Read Colossians 3:23

Think about that verse “**whatever you do, work at it with all your heart.**” Now think about your situation, job, or difficulty. It is God who you’re working for; not a human boss. It is God who sees you in your situation and rewards you for being obedient, but we need to believe that He sees.

What is the “whatever you do” situation that you find yourself in that you need to change your attitude about and start to be thankful, obedient, and faithful in?

My current job or career situation

My living situation, neighbors, or environment I find myself in

My relational conflict

My role as a dad, mom, son, daughter, husband, wife, grandmother, grandfather, boss, employee, friend, etc.

My own relationship with God

My physical limitation or health condition I’m facing

Trusting God with my time, resources, or serving

Other

PRAY

As a group, spend some time praying for each other, especially for the situations that people might be facing today. If you are in a co-ed group, consider breaking up into men and women’s groups to talk more freely.

TO GO

You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things.
Matthew 25:23