



WEEK 2 GROUP GUIDE | MESSAGE BY CHAD BRUEGMAN

START

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

Besides the Bible, what is one of the best books you have ever read and why?

If you aren't a reader, you're not alone; so what is your favorite movie based on a book?

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 in week 1 of this series, **"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 Chad talked about weakness. In the eyes of the world, 'weakness' is seen as a barrier to progress. From the outside, weakness seems to have no upside and feels like an indictment on a person's future. In God's Kingdom, weakness paves the way for God's power to strengthen us to become the person God desires us to become. God is not surprised by your weakness; in fact, he is in the business of using the weak things of the world to reveal his power and glory to the world.

Lets start by reading 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

In D. Prime's *Opening up 1 Corinthians* (pp. 18–19), Paul shows how the cross is the answer to the human dilemma:

He underlines the priority of preaching the gospel by establishing the uniqueness of the cross and its power to answer the problem of human sin.

He sums up the gospel as 'the message of the cross' (v. 18). To the world at large, the cross appears the height of 'foolishness'. It is not the foolishness of preaching (v. 21) that Paul points out, but the seeming foolishness of the message itself to both Jews and Gentiles. The Jews' demand for 'miraculous signs' is recorded in the Gospel narratives (vv. 22–23; John 6:30). The Greeks set great store by human intelligence and wisdom, and to them the cross was utter folly since it was such a barbaric act.

According to God's word, how do those who don't know Jesus Christ and are living without him view the message of the cross? Do you remember a time where you felt that same way?

Why do you think we struggle with appearing weak to others around us?

Growing up, how was weakness treated in your family? Was it welcomed or scorned? How has that affected how you perceive or treat others' weaknesses?

GROW

Chad pointed out this week that God is in the business of choosing the most unlikely people to demonstrate his power in their lives. God loves to use the 'foolish things' to shame the self-proclaimed wise. God comes alongside the weak and strengthens them by his power to not only change their lives, but to announce to a perishing world around us that there is hope in the gospel of Jesus. God doesn't call the qualified, but qualifies the called.

Read Acts 4:13-22

J.B Polhill's *New American Commentary: Acts* describes the tension of the scene:

Peter had borne his testimony. It was now time for the Council to deliberate. They assessed the evidence (vv. 13–14). First, there was the courage, the sheer freedom with which Peter spoke. They hardly expected this from men who had no formal education in matters of the law, who were ordinary laymen.⁵³ Then there was the fact that they had been with Jesus. He too had been just a "commoner" but also with an amazing boldness and knowledge beyond his training. But he too had been a dangerous person, a threat to their peace; and they consequently had condemned him to

death. Finally, there was the healed man, standing with them before the Tribunal. Whether he was there voluntarily in support of Peter and John or whether he had been summoned as a witness, we are not told.

The Council of the Sanhedrin sat astonished looking at Peter and John why?

Why do you think God chose these ordinary and untrained men to carry the message of Christ to the world?

What lie do you tend to believe about your own weaknesses? Do you think that the weakness you hide might be the very place God could most work in and through you?

MOVE

(We recommend breaking up into men and women if you are in a co-ed or married group. This way, we can be in a safe and more open environment)

In this week's message, Chad ended by talking about **two different types** of weakness. There is weakness "God has allowed" in your life to bring you closer to him; the type of weakness that helps us fix our eyes on God continually. Many times this type of weakness helps us remain humble. Then there is this other weakness, what Chad called "In-house weakness," or weakness that we have brought upon ourselves; otherwise simply called sin.

Read Colossians 3:23 – Paul was very familiar with this first type of weakness, the kind we didn't go looking for, but it found us. God has allowed it in our lives.

Read James 1:13-15 – This type of weakness is the type we went looking for by our own evil desires and has now become a personal struggle with a sin pattern we are caught in.

When you think about your weakness, is it something that you struggle with, like in Paul's situation or is it something that you have brought on yourself over time? You might be dealing with both today.

How can the group be praying for you or encouraging you this week?

If you are dealing with an ongoing sin struggle, how can those around you best help support you?

PRAY

As a group, spend some time praying for each other, especially for the situations that people might be facing today.

TO GO

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2 Corinthians 12:9

Additional Resources:

Celebrate Recovery meets every Friday Night @6pm-7:30pm at our Littleton Campus. If you have habits, hurts or hang-ups, this is an amazing ministry to come and check out.