

Week Four: *The Genius of Success*

Joshua 1:1-9

Spend FIFTEEN - Day One

1. Who is the most successful person you know? How did he or she achieve success?
2. Do you think being successful is compatible with following Jesus? Why or why not?
3. Read Luke 12:16-21. Jesus tells a story of success to people. What do you think Jesus is trying to say about success? Does that change your perspective on #2 above?
4. Where did this man go wrong? According to Jesus, what would have been the God-pleasing way for the man to deal with his success?
5. It's easy to compare ourselves to others, but if we're honest, most of us enjoy some measure of success. How are you currently blessing others? In what ways would you like to improve?
6. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Survey your life and the success God has given to you in various ways. Ask God for help being generous with your success.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two

7. Have you ever been asked to do a job or perform a task that you felt was above your ability? How did you respond?
8. Read Joshua 1:1-9. What do you think it would be like to follow in the footsteps of a leader like Moses?
9. What does this text tell you about the promises God gives regarding success?
10. Reread verse 8. What does God say is related to prospering and success? Have you found this to be true in your life?
11. God was supremely interested in Joshua's success because it meant bringing God's people into the Promised Land. In what ways might God be interested in your success?
12. God is interested in your success in things that matter. How does that statement affect how you live your life?

13. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Ask God for the strength and the courage to chase success in things that matter to Him. Pray that God would bless you with success so that you can be a blessing to others.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three

14. This series has been focused on the factors leading up to gratitude. A good perspective leads to an optimistic outlook, which leads to the courage to act. How do you see this building to this week's theme of success?
15. Successful people often cite their failures as some of their biggest teaching tools. Is it easy for you to learn from failure or do you struggle with it? Explain.
16. One thing that holds people back is the fear of failure. Yet, successful people continue striving amidst the fear of failure and actual failures. Read the following verses and write down how you see them addressing the fear of failure:
- a. Colossians 3:17

 - b. Matthew 6:21

 - c. Philippians 4:13

 - d. Proverbs 24:16

 - e. Proverbs 11:25
17. Many of us can think back on past failures and regrets. Which of the verses above helps you address some of those feelings? Is there a verse that inspires you for future efforts?
18. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Ask God for wisdom to learn from your failures and then use that wisdom to achieve success in your life.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four

19. What is one of your greatest successes? What led up to it and how did you respond to it?
20. One of the greatest success stories in all of scripture is that of King David. He started out as an unknown shepherd boy, slew a giant, moved up through the ranks of the kingdom and was chosen by God to be the new king. The book of Psalms consists of poems written mostly by David. Psalm 18 is one that was written after a particularly tough battle and the outcome meant great success for David. Read Psalm 18 and highlight phrases which showed how David recognized and responded to success.
21. According to David, what is the proper response to success?

22. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Ask God for a humble heart that boldly goes after success, but gives up all the glory to Him.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five

23. Do you believe church should be a “come as you are” environment? Why or why not?

24. Read Matthew 13:1-9. In reading this text, many of us become overly focused on what kind of soil we are and what we should be. This time, read from the farmer’s perspective in measuring success. Write down your insights.

25. Jesus later reveals that the seeds are the message of the gospel and the types of soil represent various kinds of people and life stages. It’s likely the farmer knows his trade, so what does it tell you about God that, in this parable, the farmer scatters the seed everywhere, even in places that likely won’t lead to success?

26. What does this parable teach us about success when it comes to sharing Christ with people?

27. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-7. Usually this text is referenced when it comes to giving money. How do you read it in light of the parable just read and the concept of sharing Jesus with anybody?

28. Is there someone in your life with whom you’ve avoiding talking about faith because you thought there was little chance of him or her being receptive? How might you approach that conversation in light of the above reading?

29. One of the greatest ways God delights in giving us success is in planting seeds of the gospel in the hearts of people who are far from Him. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer for people to whom you are connected, but who are disconnected from God. Ask for boldness to “plant the seed” of the gospel and for God to bring success.