



Thanks for checking out our sermon-based Study Guides!

If you've never used our Study Guides before, you'll find some basic instructions towards the end of the document.

- These study guides will be written by thoughtful and experienced Life Group Leaders.
- Use these guides as a head-start in your own preparation as the needs and culture is different from each group.

Outline

- I. Introduction and Main Scripture Readings
- II. Group Discussion Questions
- III. The Journey Resources
- IV. Support for the Leader

How to Use These Study Guides:

1. **Before the meeting:** Consider sending out the Scripture passage to your group members ahead of time.
2. **Check In:** Begin each meeting with a short time checking in with one another.
3. **Read Scripture:** You may want to begin the discussion by reading the Scripture passage together out loud, or by summarizing the passage if everyone has read it ahead of time.
4. **Ask Questions:** Don't feel like you need to discuss every question included in the Study Guide. Pick one or two to start with and see how the conversation flows.
5. **End with Prayer:** Be sure to set aside time for sharing prayer requests and praying together.

If your group meets over Zoom:

- Expect to do more overt facilitating over Zoom than you would in person. Feel free to call on people to invite them to share.
- Be sensitive to attention spans over zoom. Keep meetings shorter than they would be in person.

Group Leader Support:

- Please reach out to your Campus Pastor if you have any questions about leading your group or concerns about your group dynamic.
 - If you have questions about or feedback on the Study Guides, please reach out to Pastor [Tim Ghali](#) or [Grace Lee](#) from the Group Life team.
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LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

for **ONE CHURCH SUNDAY**
May 16, 2024
at Lowell Memorial Auditorium
by Pastors Bryan Wilkerson & Joshua Clough

PASSING THE BATON – Deuteronomy 31:1-9



I. Introduction

Welcome to our third One Church Sunday! The first time in 2004 we were celebrating our unity across multiple services. The second time in 2015 we were celebrating our unity across multiple campuses. Today we are celebrating our unity across multiple generations. We are also here today to mark the passing of the leadership baton –not just from one senior pastor to the next, but from one generation to the next.

Questions: What can we do to help our church step forward into a new era of leadership and change?

Bottom Line: The successful transition will require senior generations to step aside, the next generations to step up, and every generation to step in.

Let's begin in prayer before we begin reading and discussing our text.

Main Scripture Readings:

Deuteronomy 31:1-9

31 Then Moses went out and spoke these words to all Israel: ²“I am now a hundred and twenty years old and I am no longer able to lead you. The LORD has said to me, ‘You shall not cross the Jordan.’ ³The LORD your God himself will cross over ahead of you. He will destroy these nations before you, and you will take possession of their land. Joshua also will cross over ahead of you, as the LORD said. ⁴And the LORD will do to them what he did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, whom he destroyed along with their land. ⁵The LORD will deliver them to you, and you must do to them all that I have commanded you. ⁶*Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.*”

⁷Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the presence of all Israel, “Be strong and courageous, for you must go with this people into the land that the LORD swore to their ancestors to give them, and you must divide it among them as their inheritance. ⁸*The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.*”

⁹So Moses wrote down this law and gave it to the Levitical priests, who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and to all the elders of Israel.

Psalms 78:4-6

⁴We will not hide them from their descendants;
*we will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD,
his power, and the wonders he has done.*

⁵He decreed statutes for Jacob
and established the law in Israel,
which he commanded our ancestors
to teach their children,

⁶*so the next generation would know them,
even the children yet to be born,
and they in turn would tell their children.*

II. Group Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor Bryan began the message reminding us of our multi-generational congregation and how we want a vibrant and growing Grace Chapel for generations to come.
 - Which generation are you? (Builders, Boomers, Gen X, Millennials, Gen Z or Generation Alpha)
 - What is your generation famous or infamous for?
2. Pastor Bryan gave the example of the how essential a smooth, efficient and gracious passing of the baton is to the outcome of a relay race. Can you think of some leadership transitions that went awry? Consider the workplace, the business world, domestic or foreign governments.
3. Older generations should step aside, NOT step down. Grace Chapel and the next generations still need our influence, our service, our wisdom and our support.
 - Are there any ministries at GC that you would be interested joining? See the complete list of volunteer opportunities here:
<https://www.grace.org/volunteer/?layouttype=church#volunteer3-filter>
 - Alternatively, discuss with your small group what your own talents and skill set. Then identify a ministry where your talents/ skills would be most valued.
4. The transition of leadership from Pastor Bryan to Pastor Joshua, from one generation of our GC congregation to the next is a “step up” kind of moment. Pastor Joshua said that *step up moments require a little courage and a whole lot of dependence on God*. Courage isn’t the absence of fear or worry – instead, courage means dependence upon God and the reliance upon his promise to never leave us, never fail us, never abandon us. Read Deuteronomy 31:8 together:

⁸ The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

Discuss with your small group specific ways that you can become more dependent on God instead of being self-reliant.
5. If you were able to attend One Church Sunday in person, you could feel the energy and excitement of the moment. Are you excited about this new era in the life of our church and congregation? What is it, in particular, that you are excited about. Why are you excited about it?

Take Home Message:

Every generation has been tasked by God to interpret the life changing love of Jesus to a new generation of Christ followers. Do you feel God's calling? Do you sense the Holy Spirit moving you? Perhaps everything that has happened up until this point in your life has prepared you for this very thing, but you are afraid to get out of your comfort zone. *Will you accept God's invitation to step up at this critical and historic moment in the life of our church? Will you go forward boldly and courageously?*

Let's Pray**III. The Journey**

We're all on a journey. Where is yours taking you?

The beauty of the way of Jesus is that it's not just good for us, it is good for the world around us. But that kind of beautiful life doesn't come from just hearing the words of Jesus. It comes from putting them into practice.

Three kinds of practice, actually:

- The **with-God life** of our personal habits and routines;
- The **with-others life** of our genuine and life-changing relationships; and
- The **for-the-world life** that makes an impact beyond our immediate homes and families, into our communities and beyond.

Growing as disciples of Jesus will make a Kingdom difference in our world and a transformative difference in our lives as believers and as a group. And these resources are helpful in identifying the next steps for our journeys.

Launching by the end of September: The newly, revised Discipleship Planning Tool

We invite your group to [take the assessment](#) and to spend a session to share about the practice and perspective you chose to focus on for the next three months.