

No Risk, No Reward

Ecclesiastes 11:1-6

"Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let your hands not be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well." - 1 Samuel 17:37

Main Point: God doesn't call us to play it safe. He calls us to live by faith.

Introduction: Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

When is the last time you did something risky? Looking back now, was the outcome what you hoped it would be?

Have you played it safe in life? What safe decisions have you made for you or your family?

There is a natural tendency for all of us to play it safe. When life isn't cooperating we tend to go into hiding or kick in survival mode. King Solomon, a man who had more wisdom than anybody, shared the importance of taking risks and living confidently in them. When we do this we have a chance to reap great rewards for God's Kingdom.

Read Ecclesiastes 11:1-6. Some risks that bring great reward are :

1) **NOT PLAYING IT SAFE . Read Ecclesiastes 11:1.**

Why was it risky to ship grain across the sea? What was the reward?

Where are you willing to take a risk in life right now that would have a great return?

Why do churches and Christians play it safe so much when it comes to sharing our faith and serving? What steps can you take as a group to battle this mentality in the coming weeks?

2) **LETTING GO. Read Ecclesiastes 11:2.**

When have you had a hard time letting go of someone or something? What, if anything, did it benefit you/them?

What things must we let go of as believers and as a church if we are to make a difference in this community? What's holding you back?

Read **Proverbs 11:25** and **Acts 20:35**. What do these verses teach us about letting go?

3) TRUSTING GOD. Read Ecclesiastes 11:6.

How does sowing seed require trust and faith in God? Where are you sowing seed in your life now, trusting that God will bring growth or reward?

Read **Isaiah 55:10-11**. When have you seen the word of God prosper in your life or in someone close to you? What kind of return can we expect when we trust God's word?

Just as we trust God to produce the crop after the seed is planted, it's not our responsibility to produce the harvest. It is our job to be obedient in representing Christ in everything we do. How can you take steps to be obedient in doing that each day this week? What will it take to "launch" your faith in that direction?

Apply It:

Think about where you are investing your time and resources. Are you letting go of your time to serve? Are you letting go of your finances and trusting God to do more with your 10% than you could? Where are you having trouble trusting God right now? Share with your group and pray for one another.

Pray:

Father, give us the courage to take risks for your Kingdom. We desire to see it grow as we make wise investments in discipling others. Show us where we need to let go of things in this life, that we would have an eternal reward in the next. We pray our trust would grow in you each day. Amen.

Coming up at VillageChurch:

Jan. 21st - VGroups Fair!

Jan. 21st - Discovery Class

Feb. 4th - Super BIG Sunday (Wear your favorite team jersey; invite family and friends to be on your Fantasy Team)

March 18th - The BIG Serve

April 22nd - BIG Tent Revival