

DO NOT DESPISE SMALL BEGINNINGS

WELCOME.

Ice Breaker Question: Were you ever made fun of as a child, and why?

WORSHIP.

Sing: HOLY FOREVER

WORD.

Introduction: Last Sunday, Pastor Jon closed out our series BY MY SPIRIT with a sermon from Zechariah 4:7! At this point in history, Israel was gone. From 12 tribes, the people of God were reduced to just two, Judah and Benjamin, the largest and the smallest. The other ten tribes disappeared because of idolatry and compromise, devastation and war, and intermarriage. Judah and Benjamin were enslaved by Babylon and Persia. Many of them were exiled. In the time of Zerubbabel, the king of Persia allowed the exiles and their children to return to their land. They had to start from scratch. At a time when the people of Judah seemed powerless and small, God revealed to Zerubbabel through the prophet Zechariah that no one must ever despise small beginnings.

Scripture: Zechariah 4:6-7 and 1 Corinthians 3:5-11

Scripture Discussion Questions:

1. Do you remember the discouragements Zerubbabel was faced with from our first week's discussion?
Read Ezra 4:4 and Ezra 3:12.
2. Why do you think was it necessary for God to reveal about the finished work to Zerubbabel?
3. The Apostle Paul mentioned his role of planting "seeds." What do these seeds represent?
4. Paul said Apollos was given the assignment of watering the seeds. What does watering represent?
5. We each have roles to play but it is God who ultimately causes things to grow. What is God growing in context to 1 Corinthians 3?

Sermon Points: Pastor Jon shared the following main points:

1. **God is committed to small beginnings, so should you be.**
2. **There's something going on now in your alpha (beginning) that's going to be relevant in your omega (completion).**
3. **You can't honor what you despise. You won't despise what you honor.**
4. **Beginnings are super exciting but also always the most challenging.**

Application Questions:

What is your part in the vision?

1. What was your biggest takeaway from this week's sermon and the entire series?
2. Some of us are called to sow. This is evangelism. Our role is to keep sowing.
What seeds are you sowing? Who are you sowing it too? What happens if we stop sowing?
3. Some of us are called to water. This is discipleship and service.
Are you involved in nourishing the faith of someone? Are you helping the someone mature in their faith? How do we do that?
4. All of us start small things, but we don't remain small.
Are you growing? What measurable evidence of spiritual growth can you find in yourself? Are you bearing spiritual fruit?
5. Dream big, start small, rely on the Spirit. With the Spirit's power, what will be your contributions (evangelism, service and giving) for the fulfillment of our vision as a church?

WORK.

1. Even after this series, don't forget your evangelism goal for 2025-2026. How many people do you want to sow the seed of the gospel into?
2. Follow up with the people you invite and share the gospel with. Discipleship relationships are for life. Are you discipling the people you shared the gospel with?
3. Praise God for growth. No matter how large or small the growth is, be sure to take time to praise God!
4. Let us do our part BY GOD'S SPIRIT and see the vision come to fruition!