

Discipleship Group

TEAR DOWN THE IDOLS – COMFORT Group Study

 **WATCH TDTI COMFORT:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KLeOO_AzE2Q

Comfort is often an invisible but rather persuasive idol in our hearts and lives. This week we are joined by Ps Luke de Jong as we continue our series 'Tear Down the Idols'. When comfort becomes our god, we stop growing, we stop serving people, and stop following Jesus.

SESSION OVERVIEW

This session explores how comfort, while not wrong in itself, can quietly take first place in our hearts. Comfort becomes an idol when ease, convenience, and the avoidance of pain begin to shape our decisions more than obedience to God. What often looks harmless on the surface can slowly train us to seek what feels easiest rather than what forms us most deeply. The challenge here is not to reject comfort altogether, but to see it clearly. Scripture shows that God often works through difficulty, stretching, discipline, and perseverance to mature our faith. As we follow Jesus, we are invited to trust that discomfort is not always a sign that something is wrong. Sometimes it is exactly where God is strengthening us, shaping us, and drawing us into a fuller life with Him.



 **SHARE LINK** <https://vimeo.com/1177504589/8dc90fe81d?share=copy>

KEY SCRIPTURES:

- **James 1:2–4** – Trials are not meaningless; God uses them to grow endurance and maturity in us.
- **Hebrews 12:11** – God’s discipline is painful in the moment, but it produces a harvest of righteousness.
- **Luke 9:23–25** – Jesus calls His followers to deny themselves daily and follow Him above personal ease.
- **Philippians 4:11–13** – Contentment is learned in every circumstance, and Christ gives strength to endure.
- **Matthew 16:24** – Following Jesus involves surrender, not simply choosing the easiest path.
- **Romans 5:3–5** – Suffering produces perseverance, character, and hope as God works within us.

KEY POINTS:

- Comfort is a good thing, but it becomes an idol when it matters more to us than obedience to God.
- God often uses discomfort, challenge, and even discipline to grow our faith and maturity.
- Following Jesus is not about building the easiest life possible, but about trusting Him with the whole of our lives.
- Real strength is not found in avoiding discomfort, but in learning contentment and faithfulness through Christ.

DISCUSSION & PRAYER POINTS:

Discussion Questions:

1. **When you hear the word comfort, what comes to mind for you?**
 - Follow up: Where do you most notice the pull toward ease, convenience, or avoiding difficulty in your everyday life?
2. **Can you relate to the idea that comfort can become an idol?**
 - Follow up: What are some warning signs that comfort may be shaping your choices more than you realised?
3. **Why do you think we so often pursue what is easy, nice, and low-resistance?**
 - Follow up: How might a short-term view of life make comfort feel more important than spiritual growth?
4. **How does James 1:2–4 challenge the way you normally think about pain, inconvenience, or struggle?**
 - Follow up: What might God be trying to form in you through a current **discomfort rather than simply remove from you?**
5. **What does Jesus’ call to take up our cross daily teach us about the relationship between discipleship and comfort?**
 - Follow up: Where might God be asking you to choose obedience over ease in this season?
6. **How can we tell the difference between receiving comfort as a gift from God and making comfort the goal of our lives?**
 - Follow up: What would it look like for you to put God first over comfort in one practical area this week?
7. **Where has comfort become a reason for me to disobey the Lord?**

8. Can you name one 'uncomfortable yes' you sense God calling you toward?
9. What comfort are you unwillingly to give up for God?

Tips for Discussion:

- **Create space for honesty**, because this is something most people will recognise in some form.
- **Let people reflect without shame**; the goal is not guilt, but clearer surrender to God.
- **Keep bringing the conversation back** to hope and formation, not just sacrifice and hardship.
- **Listen carefully for where people may be facing real pain**, and respond with gentleness and compassion.
- **Help the group focus on practical next steps**, not just ideas, so the conversation leads toward faith-filled action.

Discipleship Group

TEAR DOWN THE IDOLS – SUCCESS

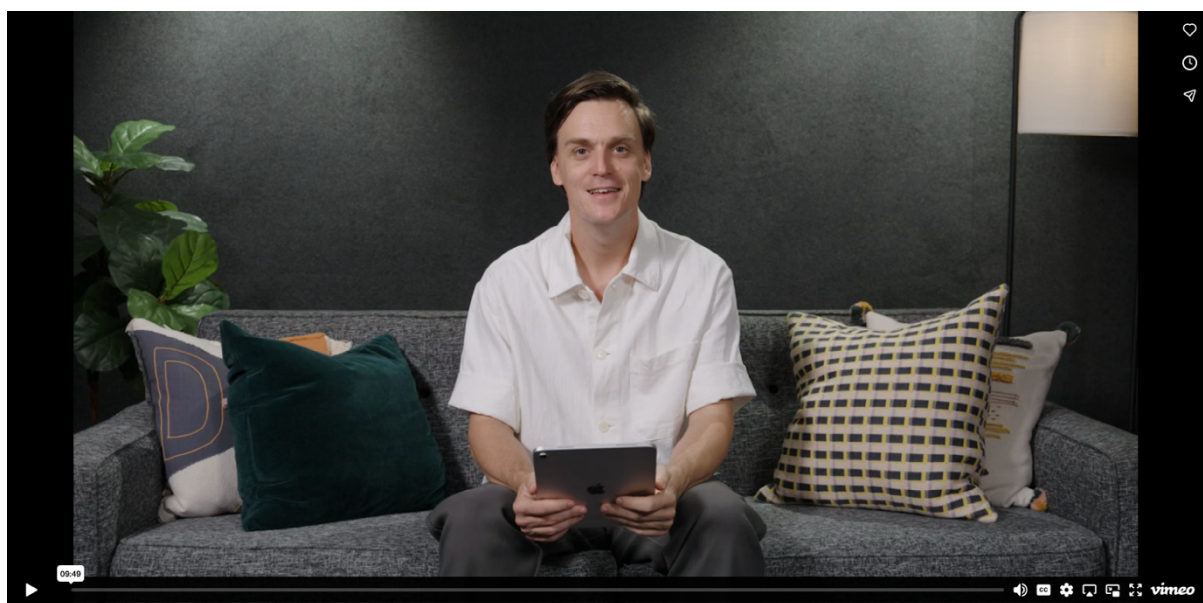
Group Study

 **WATCH TDTI SUCCESS:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5WvNiMjjoQ>

Success is not wrong, but it was never meant to be your shepherd! This week, Ps Dan continues our series 'Tear Down the Idols' as we reflect on how we view success. Wanting to succeed is not wrong but when we begin to build our worth on it, we allow it to become our shepherd.

SESSION OVERVIEW

This session explores the subtle but powerful way success can become an idol in our lives. While success itself is not wrong—and is often part of God's design—it becomes dangerous when we begin to look to our achievements, progress, or status as the source of our identity, security, and meaning. Through the story of the rich young ruler, we are invited to reflect on the difference between achieving for God and surrendering to God. This session challenges us to consider whether our faith has become centred on what we can do, rather than what God has already done—and calls us back to finding true significance in Him.



 **SHARE LINK:** <https://vimeo.com/1177505668/c01a89c46f?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci>

KEY SCRIPTURES:

- **Matthew 19:16–22** – The rich young ruler reveals how achievement can mask a deeper dependence on self rather than surrender to God.
- **Galatians 6:14** – Paul declares that true significance is found in Christ, not in worldly success or status.
- **Matthew 6:33** – Jesus calls us to seek first God's kingdom, reordering our priorities away from self-driven success.
- **Exodus 20:3** – The command to have no other gods highlights how easily good things can take God's rightful place.

KEY POINTS:

- Success becomes an idol when we look to our achievements to give us identity, security, or worth.
- A performance-based faith focuses on what we can do, while a surrendered faith trusts in what God has done.
- Comparison, control, and constant striving are often signs that success is shaping our identity.
- True significance is found not in what we achieve, but in being known, loved, and secure in God.

DISCUSSION & PRAYER POINTS:

1. **Where do you see the desire for success showing up most clearly in your life right now?**
 - Follow up: How does that area make you feel when things are going well—and when they're not?
2. **What stood out to you about how success can subtly become an idol?**
 - Follow up: When have you noticed yourself comparing your progress, achievements, or life to others?
3. **Why do you think the rich young ruler asked, "What must I do?" instead of simply receiving from Jesus?**
 - Follow up: Where might you be tempted to approach your relationship with God in a similar way?
4. **What are some ways success can show up in spiritual or church life, not just in work or personal achievement?**
 - Follow up: How can we guard against turning even good things like serving or leading into a source of identity?
5. **What would it look like for you to measure your life by God's priorities rather than your own metrics?**
 - Follow up: What might need to shift in your thinking, habits, or focus for that to happen?
6. **What does it practically mean for you to find your identity and significance in God rather than in success?**
 - Follow up: What is one step you can take this week to trust God more with your sense of worth or achievement?

Tips for Discussion:

- **Create a safe environment** where people feel comfortable being honest about areas of striving or comparison.
- **Gently help people distinguish between** healthy ambition and identity-driven performance.
- **Keep bringing the conversation back** to identity in Christ, not behaviour modification alone.
- **Encourage listening and empathy**—this topic often touches deeply personal areas of life.
- **Keep hope central:** freedom from striving isn't found in doing less, but in trusting God more.