

## Success in the Eyes of the Lord

### Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the [recent sermons page](#) at our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

**Sunday, November 26th, 2023**



**Sermon Title:** Success in the Eyes of the Lord

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 25:14-30; John 15:8; 1 Peter 4:10

**Sermon Focus:** American culture disciplines us to seek success and be successful. But in the eyes of the world, many biblical characters would not be seen as successful people. In fact, from the perspective of a skeptic or unbeliever, even Jesus himself was a failure. So, for disciples of Christ, how should we view "success" and what does it look like in the church? In today's message, Pastor David invites us to see that success in the eyes of the Lord looks like faithfulness to our calling and fruitfulness that comes by the Spirit.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person or by video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Pastor David began his message by telling us that he had lunch with a middle-aged man who asked, "What is success? What do you think it means to be successful?" This person thought that they should be experiencing a greater level of success in their work and life. While you may not be middle-aged, can you relate to this feeling? Share about your own struggle with success.
2. As you survey American culture, how do you see that we are conditioned to think about success? And how does our culture's definition of success contradict the life and example of many biblical heroes and heroines? Give examples.
3. Read Matthew 25:14-30, the parable of the three servants. Pastor David said that success in the eyes of the Lord looks like faithfulness to follow Jesus in character formation and acting out our faith. Like this parable, it looks like using the time, talents, and treasure that God has given us to further his mission. How does this parable challenge you? Why do you think Jesus uses such harsh words for the third servant who wasn't vigilant and made excuses while the Master was away? In what ways can we also be like the third servant in our own day?
4. Read John 15:8. It's important to hold faithfulness together with fruitfulness. According to Galatians 5:22-25, bearing the fruit of the Spirit is why we work to "keep in step with the Spirit" as we live out the Christian life. So, it's first and foremost about *who* we are becoming than it is about *what* we're doing. In other words, doing stuff for Jesus should come out of being with him. How have you seen people in the church put the doing before the being? Ever known a busy servant who does a lot of good things, but is a self-absorbed jerk? Give some examples of how you've seen the doing come before being (identity) in Christ.
5. What drives your choices with things like your job/career, your relationships, and how you use your time, talents, and financial resources? Are you seeking his will for your life? Practically, what does it look like to put God's will before your own?
6. Are you getting your identity from being loved by God as a disciple of Jesus, or from some version of "success" in life? How is the Lord inviting you to let go of your own idea of success so that you can be faithful and fruitful? After you have shared together, end your time in prayer for each other.