

Resilient Faith (6 of 6)

Small Group Discussion Questions

PUBLIC WORSHIP DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The global pandemic COVID-19 has forced us to adjust and adapt how we do church and stay connected to one another as a congregation. We're not closed as a church, we're just doing church differently! So, please stay connected to the body at Grantham Church. Join our congregation for worship in-person with restrictions or online at 10:30 am each Sunday morning via our Grantham Church YouTube Channel. For more information, please go to the [Grantham Church Live](#) page at our website.

As usual, the sermons will be posted to the [recent sermons page](#) on our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, March 28th 2021



Sermon Title: Determination + Adaptation = Resilience

Scripture Reading: Mark 11:1-10; 1 Corinthians 9:22; Philippians 3:13-14

Sermon Focus: Jesus wasn't going to let anything deter him or throw him off course from what the Father had sent him to do. He was determined to act out of his identity and his calling. And after his death and resurrection, his disciples exemplified the same determination and courage to adapt to their changing world. Listen as Pastor David concludes our series with a challenge to be resilient like Jesus and the early church.

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

1. Pastor David said, "Jesus' determination is obvious to anyone who reads the gospels. He wasn't stopping, he wouldn't be deterred, and he wouldn't be knocked off course—not by the devil in the wilderness, not by the Pharisees in the synagogues, not by his friend Peter who said, "we won't let you go" nor by Pilate who said, "Don't you know I have the power to crucify you?" Still, Jesus kept going." Do you feel that *you* are that determined to live out the purpose and calling God has for you? If not, why not?
2. Jesus said, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand" (John 13:7). So much about what Jesus said and did was not understood by his disciples until later. How have you experienced this in your own walk with Christ? Does this give you hope for life after the pandemic?
3. In his book, *Resilient Faith: How the Early Christian "Third Way" Changed the World*, Gerald Sittser makes the case that it was the resilient faith of the early church that led to the explosive growth of Christianity. Take some time with your group to reflect on a few of the reasons for their resilience:
 - They created a "third way" (race) or new family through the church community.
 - They had to improvise and learn to be creative and resourceful with less.
 - They embraced liturgical worship and counter-cultural practices that helped them live into the redemptive story every day of the week.
 - They thrived by patiently making disciples and putting their faith openly on display.

What do you see are our biggest challenges and struggles with each of these in the church today? What can we do to make some progress in these areas?

4. Ronald Heifetz said, "People do not resist change, per se. People resist loss." Read John 14:25-27 together. The disciples were about to experience loss, but Jesus encouraged them to remember that he would be with them in a new way, but in the meantime, they can know his peace and not be afraid. How might God want you to believe that good things are on the other side of your trials?
5. Read Philippians 3:13-14 together. You can hear Paul's determination and his desire to press on despite his situation (writing from prison). Are there some things that God is telling you to "forget what is behind you" and move on? What you think it looks like to "press on toward the goal" in this season of life?
6. What are some of your major takeaways from the *Resilient Faith* series? What do you believe God has been saying to you? How are you responding to his voice?