

Step Out of the Crowd

Let's Get Started

World Outreach Church
Sermon Discussion Guide
Sunday Sermon: **October 15, 2023**



There is no solution to the problems we face other than extending the influence of Jesus of Nazareth in the world in which we live—and God recruited us. We want to be intentional about engaging with the purposes of God instead of quietly observing. We want to be engaged with God's purposes to the point that it breaks into our interactions within our social circles and conversations around our dinner tables. Let's raise our hands to say, "I'm going to stand up for a Judeo-Christian worldview. I'm an advocate for Jesus." So, the invitation before us is, let's get started!

I. FAMILY TRADITIONS

Esther ... Stepped out of the shadows and raised her voice for God's people.

Esther 4:12–14 ¹² When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, ¹³ he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. ¹⁴ For **if you remain silent at this time**, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"

Peter, James, & John ... "We have left everything for you!"

Matthew 19:27–29 ²⁷ Peter answered him, "**We have left everything to follow you!** What then will there be for us?" ²⁸ Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ And **everyone who has left houses** or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life."

Paul ... Imagined hardship as an expression of faithfulness.

2 Corinthians 11:18–24 ¹⁸ Since many are boasting in the way the world does, I too will boast. ... ²² Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham's descendants? So am I. ²³ Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. ²⁴ Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one.

1. **What traditions can you implement in your home that will help you and your family grow spiritually and learn to stand for the Lord, specifically during this season?**
2. **What are some traditions or practices you have stepped away from since you became a Christ-follower?**

II. GUIDELINES FOR STEPPING OUT OF THE CROWD

A. Have confidence in someone beyond time ...

They believed in God & ordered their lives upon that foundational belief.

Galatians 3:6 Consider Abraham: "He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

Philippians 2:5–7 ⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

Philippians 3:8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ.

Romans 6:11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

B. They did not see the completion of the assignment ...

Their lives were an investment in the eternal purpose of God.

Hebrews 11:13–16 ¹³ *All these people were still living by faith when they died. **They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance.** And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. ¹⁴ People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.*

Matthew 28:18–20 ¹⁸ *Then Jesus came to them and said, **“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”***

C. God Searches for People in Every Generation.

2 Chronicles 16:9 *For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.*

Ezekiel 22:30–31 ³⁰ ***“I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none. ³¹ So I will pour out my wrath on them and consume them with my fiery anger, bringing down on their own heads all they have done, declares the Sovereign Lord.”***

D. Our assignment does not require us to do great things.

It requires us to be faithful to the One who can do anything.

Acts 13:22 *After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: **‘I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.’***

Zechariah 4:8–10 ⁸ *Then the word of the Lord came to me: ⁹ **“The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this temple; his hands will also complete it. Then you will know that the Lord Almighty has sent me to you. ¹⁰ **“Who despises the day of small things? Men will rejoice when they see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel.*****

- 3. What is the difference in viewing Jesus only as your Savior verses Jesus as Lord of your life? How does this look in your life?**
- 4. When was a time you took a step of obedience in faith without knowing what the outcome would be?**
- 5. What faith legacy do you hope to leave for the next generation?**
- 6. In what ways can you “step out of the crowd” and lead with your faith this week?**

PRAYER

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

“Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?”

“Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?”

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen. — Romans 11:33–36