**GROWN UP FAITH – Week 2**

**PK:** So welcome to Grown-Up Faith where we all have a bunch of really good questions and God is training our minds and God is engaging our hearts and God is aligning our wills so that we can grow up into the bigger and the better life that God has for us. And we all want that bigger and better life. Let me hear how badly you want God's bigger and better life across campuses. Yeah, see, we want that.

So, you were made to grow up. And I want to set, right off the top, I set a metaphor by sharing a story. And it's going to help us walk through the teaching. About 25 years ago, I started what became a tradition and that is a motorcycle trip every year where I go with a couple of guys and usually, we go up and down the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Now in the very first trip, this was complicated, just didn't have the resources. A couple of young kids at home, a baby on the way. Didn't have the money for it, I was on a bike that somebody else made possible and the trip was too expensive. But doggone it, we're going to do and get a little oxygen.

And when you're riding a bike, it's not like being in the steel cocoon of a car. I mean, you've got the wind in your face and you smell and experience and see everything differently. So, we're leaving Asheville and we're on this little four lane, wide median little boulevard, on our way to get back on the Blue Ridge Parkway. It's going to be an awesome day to ride.

We just gassed up the bikes and, on our way, there, cause I'm experiencing everything, you see trash passing in the median, but out of the corner of my eye, I kid you not, for a moment I thought I saw cash, not trash. And a millisecond later, I thought I saw another one. And now my brain's telling me, "Kevin, that's not trash, that's cash. Stop the bike, shut it down, chase the cash." Right?

Which I did. I shut the bike down and took off my helmet. And I was right! It was cash! I started running and I found a ten and then a twenty. And another twenty was blowing over here, there was a fifty blowing out in the road. I'm like, "Cars be stopped." And I went and got me my fifty. I am collecting money.

I know I look stupid to everybody else, I don't care. How many of you have ever had a dream where you found money in your dream? Like you were in the middle of the night, oh, isn't that an awesome dream. It was lottery day. $400.00 in cash. Come on. That is a good, I'm like, "God has answered my prayers." I can't dance, but if I did, aw.

I was dancing, God just covered this trip for me. Thank you, Jesus, he loves me. God's lottery. That's what Abraham was experiencing. Grab your Bibles across campuses, here we go. We're over in the story of Abraham, Genesis 12, page 11. Genesis 12, page 11.

Abraham just won the lottery, so to speak. This was his experience. Page 11, Worship Center Bible, Genesis 12:1, if you're on a mobile device, here we go. "The Lord had said to Abram, go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you." Here's the lottery, "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you." Are you kidding me? The living, loving God, "I want to bless you, I'm going to make you into a great nation."

And he goes on, "I will make your name great and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and whoever curses you, I will curse. And all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you." All the peoples on earth will be blessed through you, wow! By the way, that's the foretelling of Jesus the Messiah coming.

So here Abraham is, in the midst of this moment where the living God is like giving him the equivalent of the lottery. In other words, "Abraham, get off your donkey. Abraham, get off the ride you're on." This right here is the truth, not trash. Go get the cash. God's word, God's wisdom, God's way, that's like the cash in life. Go get this ride, go chase it.

And that's what he did, verse 4, "So Abram went, as the Lord had told him." Man, I would too, wouldn't you? "Abraham, I'm going to bless you, I'm going to change your life." And listen, this is where everything changed for Abraham. This was the beginning of good for him and really for all of us. See, this is part of God's big story. We've been in this big story, we started last week. It's part of us growing up.

Let's go ahead and walk through it again. The Bible is one big story. The Bible is what? One big story. Two halves, Old Testament, New Testament. Five major events in the Old Testament, five major events in the New Testament. And they are a mirror image. A what? A mirror image, one of the other. And last week we started walking you through the five major events in the Old Testament. The first one is on the screen, it's God and righteous people in paradise. Man, it's all good. God creates life and it's awesome. A great relationship with God, wonderful with each other.

But then Satan and sin enter. And sin is death. Sin is what? And now after last weekend, if you were here, we all officially know we are a snake handling church. At least that's what's all out on the internet. So be it, have fun. But we made the point that God says sin is venomous, but we pretend like it's harmless.

The major event is the world is judged and destroyed. Then the one world government. And it's all left hanging there, like, "What's going to happen now? We're lost in sin, separated from God, death and disease." And God makes a turn. Genesis 12, Abraham. And God's about to turn everything around by answering two more of the ten big questions.

Remember this? Remember? We all have questions. We have like 10,000 questions in life. Of course, we do more than that. But they all boil down to how many ten big ... how many? Ten big questions. And this is the foundation of your life, how you answer those ten big questions is your worldview. And you answer all the other questions in life based on these.

Now we started looking at the ten last weekend, let's go back to them. The first one is, is life an accident or am I here on purpose? The second, why do bad things happen to good people? We talked about those last weekend. Get in on that teaching if you missed it.

Then number three and number four, we're going to address today. Can I really trust God? And why can't I make my own rules? See, as soon as you live in a perfect world, but then bad things are happening because of sin, you just wonder, "All right, I've got good and bad happening, can I really trust God? And why can't I just make my own rules?" By the way, we'll pick up next weekend with the question, "Why can't God accept me the way I am?" But we can't get there yet. We've got the two in front of us.

So, get your teaching notes, let's look at them. Here we go. Question number three of the ten big questions, can I really trust God? That's what we want to know. Because in the Garden of Eden, we've quit trusting him and we lost and what's been broken has to be rebuilt. You got to rebuild trust and right off the top, I think Abe would tell us what he experienced to be true of God and what he'd encourage for us.

And here it is, God is forever good, trust his word. God is forever good, trust his word. Whether you're online or driving down the road listening to this or you're at one of the campuses, I want loud and proud, everybody to read that sentence with me twice. Here we go, God is forever good, trust his word. Again, God is forever good, trust his word.

That's what Abraham would say. And why? Because God alone can be trusted. He is the only one who is forever faithful to his word. You can trust him. And you want to. See, God just gave Abraham three promises. I'll put them on the screen, we just read about them. "Abraham, I'm going to make you a great nation. I'm going to give you a great land. Through you will come a great Messiah." A great nation, a great land, and a great Messiah. Say it with me, a great nation, a great land, a great Messiah. Do it again, a great nation, a great land, a great Messiah. I still can't hear you. A great nation, a great land, a great Messiah.

Why is that important? Watch, watch, watch, because this is the outline of the rest of the Old Testament into the New Testament. See, the story of Abraham all the way into Exodus is all about fulfilling the first promise, a great nation. Will they become a great nation? Will he give them many descendants? From one man many descendants.

Then God goes on to fulfill the second promise. And from the release of Israel from Egypt, all the way through the rest of the Old Testament, God is fulfilling and proving the second promise, giving them a great land. Then they foretell the coming of a great Messiah and when Jesus comes, God is fulfilling the third promise, "Through you all the nations on the earth will be blessed."

A great nation, a great land, a great Messiah are the three promises that outline what God is doing. We know what on earth God is doing. So, let's talk about it. God's made a promise and God keeps them. And the first promise, "Abraham, I will build a great nation." Now there's a piece missing, here's the missing piece, Abraham and his wife Sarah are barren. They can't have any kids. So how can you become a great nation if you can't even have one kid? How can you have more kids than the number of sand on the seashore? The number of the stars in the sky, if you can't have one kid?

See, we didn't read chapter 11, verse 30 of Exodus, but that's what proceeded it. So, when Abraham says, "You've got to trust God," here's what he's saying. "I had some barren places, my wife and me. And we trusted that what God said he would do, he would do, even when we didn't see a way.

In fact, if you go further along into Genesis 15, we get a little bit more of that story. If you want to flip over there, we'll read it together. We'll just continue in Abraham's story, why he would trust God. Chapter 15, page 13 in Worship Center Bible. "But Abraham said, Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless? And the one who will inherit my estate is Eleazar of Damascus." In other words, my servant. In other words, God, you're not giving me any kids. And God says, that's not what's going to happen.

In fact, he goes on to say, "Look at the stars in the sky, if you could count the stars, then you could your descendants. It's going to blow your mind. Trust me, trust me, Abraham. I do what I say." Can you trust God? Cause that's the next big decision in your life. And God's answering it right here with Abraham, of course you can. Cause God doesn't lie.

In fact, the next thing that happens in the rest of chapter 15 is what's called the Suzerain/Vassal covenant. Suzerain means king, vassal means servant, a king's servant treaty covenant. God makes a covenant with Abraham. It's bizarre to our culture, it was normal to their culture. And God had Abraham take a few animals, cut them literally in half, lay their carcasses on the right or left so there was a path in the middle. And what this covenant treaty meant was that the people would each walk in the middle of the carcasses and be symbolically saying, "May I be killed if I fail this covenant."

God was literally saying, by the way, God who has always lived and cannot die, said I will fulfill this covenant, trust me. And a fiery cauldron walked through the middle of it as God symbolically saying, "I'm establishing a covenant." A what? A covenant. See, it's the old covenant. When you look on the pyramid, today chapter 12 of Genesis through the rest of the Old Testament is the old covenant. God established a covenant with Abraham. Now we call it the old covenant because it was established with him, at that moment it was the new covenant, but Jesus fulfilled the old covenant and wrote a new covenant, which is the New Testament.

But we're back here in the Old Testament, so now we're talking about the old covenant. God established the covenant with Abraham and said, "I will do this." So, Abraham was like, "Okay, I'm going to trust God." That's what he settles in his soul. "I'm going to trust God." In fact, I'll just read it. Drop down to verse 6 of chapter 15, "Abraham believed the Lord and he credited it to him as righteousness." Abraham believed the Lord. He said, "All right, I'm going to believe you. I trust you, God. I trust you."

But to be honest with you, things didn't play out the way Abraham thought they would. Wouldn't you think if you were Abraham, when God says I'm going to make a great nation out of you and you're barren and you can't have kids, that you would get pregnant immediately and you would have a child like within a year? And then it had been three years, and then nine years, ten years. Ten years, no kid. This wasn't quite the lottery win he thought.

By the way, when I collected the $400.00 in the median on the motorcycle trip and I'm all excited, this is fantastic. One of the guys, third guy on the trip, Jeff, he was ahead of us, he was almost at the parkway. He had taken off ahead, and he turned around and came back because we had disappeared. And then he saw us on the side of the road, and he jumped off his bike, "Hey, what happened to you guys? Did things break down? You have mechanical failure?" I'm like, "No, Jeff."

And by the way, we didn't need Jeff to be there. Here's why, Jeff didn't need the money. Jeff was doing fine in life. Jeff was the one who had the big finance job with a big company in Atlanta. He had the bigger house, he was doing just fine financially. In fact, he had just bought a new car and his old car, he had handed off to Marsha and me. He said, "Hey, I know you guys are desperate and you need a car." It was very gracious of him.

So, he didn't the $400.00 bucks. I understand why God didn't have him running up and down the median. So, he comes back, he says, "Your motorcycle broke down?" I said, "No, dude, check this out! There was money blowing down the road." He said, "Are you kidding me?" I said, "No, look, look, I'm just counting it, it's like $400.00 bucks." "That's amazing!" I said, "I know, money from heaven."

He said, "Hey," he put his hands in his leather jacket. "Oh, dude. Man, I put all my cash in my leather jacket and didn't zip it. It's all gone. Oh, dude, you found my money. Thank you!" "Oh. How much did you lose?" "Oh, it looks like about $400.00 bucks." "Yay!" "Yeah, man, you got that for me."

Did you ever wake up from a dream where you found money and realized you didn't get anything? Oh, I was bummed. Hey, Abraham was bummed. This wasn't working out like he thought. See, what I love about Abraham is it wasn't working out like he thought and he still trusted God. He still what? Because God is trustworthy. And so, it was not in five or ten or 15 or 20, but 25 years later. In fact, God never gave him a timeline until the 25th year and then God said, "Next year you'll have a baby," and he did.

Listen, you have got to love the trusting heart of Abram that we should follow, and you got to love God because he delivers. Men and women, we serve a God that when he makes promises, he delivers. Yes, in his time, but always on time because he is a gracious and loving and giving and faithful God. And he says, "Trust me." That's who we should be. That's who we're invited to be.

And by the way, God longs to bless us. Many of you know that last weekend, a week ago Sunday, our family, Marsha and I had our third grandchild born. Brayden, he is a blessing in the life of our family. And I was pretty honest with you at that moment, that God was blessing my son and daughter-in-law with their second child. Which let's be honest, if you were here a few years ago, they couldn't even have children. They were barren. And there was no hope and God did a miracle alone for them to have a child. And then that they would have a second one, wow.

But there was complications and trauma in the birthing process and deprived oxygen and now questions of brain damage and many of you are praying and we're grateful. You're asking for updates, and I don't have any updates yet. He went on the cooling therapy and that ended on Wednesday and he's on some next therapy in process. But, because they took him off cool therapy, then on Thursday we all got a chance to hold him. Here's my first picture of holding little baby Brayden. So adorable, oh my gosh is he cute.

And we're still praying. Now, when my son watched his son get taken from the hospital to Grady Hospital and he's texting me, he said, "Dad, I'm trusting God." I'm what, church? When my son says, "I'm trusting God," what does that mean? Stay with me. Does that mean that he's trusting God to heal Brayden? Yes. Does that mean that he's trusting God to heal Brayden and God must heal Brayden or therefore God cannot be trusted? No. No. When he says, "I'm trusting God," it means I know God loves to bless his people. I know God is fully powerful and fully able, but I'm trusting God because these things are true about God and he's made promises.

Let me put some on the screen, these are just examples of the things that we would trust. God is forever good. See in Luke 18:19, the crowd said, "You are good, teacher," to Jesus and Jesus said, "Why would you call me good? Only God is good." See, we trust God is forever good.

We trust that God is with us. We're never alone. Hebrews 13:5 reminds us, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So, we don't walk through this alone. God's with us, if you walk with God, God's walking with you. You're never alone.

We trust that God gives his peace amidst problems. Jesus said in John 16, "In this world you'll have problems, but you'll have my peace. And know this, I've overcome the world." So, you're going to have his peace in the midst of your problems. You're still going to have problems.

God gives strength to endure them, Philippians 4:13. Which means you'll go through hardship and you'll have challenges and difficulties, but sometimes the great gift of God is he gives you strength you would never have on your own. Otherwise, you would just quit.

You know the majority of stuff in life that wins is because God gave you strength you wouldn't have had on your own. A whole bunch of people quit stuff that if they had stayed in it, they would have won. But God gives you strength to endure and climb a mountain you could never climb on our own. That's a miracle of God in itself. Prayer matters. James 5, "The prayer of a righteous man or woman prevails in the presence of God." So, we pray.

God, in Romans 8:28 says, "He works all things for the good." Does that mean all things that happen are good? No, when bad things happen, God is so good that he can take bad things and eventually work them for the good of those who love him and walk according to his purpose. That's a promise of God. When my son says, "I'm trusting God," he says, "I know God can do that."

Listen, if God heals Brayden, it would be just like God to do that. But my son's also saying, if he doesn't heal Brayden, you watch, God's going to prove to do something good in this we could never have imagined. I just trust the goodness of God. It means he and we would be rewarded for fully following Christ in Mark 10. You see, you've got to settle you're going to trust.

But let me ask you something, if you don't trust God, who are you trusting? You're trusting somebody or something. All my son's saying by that text is, I'm stopping life, getting off the bike and I'm chasing God, I'm chasing the cash. Cause to trust anyone or anything else is trash. You got to figure out who you're going to trust. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he'll make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6. That's what it means. And if you're not chasing God, you're chasing things that will trash your life. Trust him.

So, I wrote in your notes, when times are hardest, that's when trust is tested most and when our faith grows up the most. So, Abraham and Sarah, they grew up in their faith. They became a great nation of many descendants. And then we find them in Exodus, and they become enslaved in Egypt and God in Genesis 15 said that would occur, but then he would free them up. And so, God calls Moses and he starts to set them free from Egypt and the power of Egypt and the lies and the deception and the slavery of Egypt.

And he takes them out into the desert land because he's going to move them into the Promised Land that God's about to fulfill the second promise and he's doing that while he answers question number four, why can't I make my own rules? Glad you asked. Look at Exodus 19, here we go. Exodus 19, why can't I make my own rules? We're on page 74 to 75 of your Worship Center Bibles, we're on chapter 19, looking at verse 3 and we're going to answer the question, why can't I make my own rules.

Exodus 19:3, so now they've been released from bondage of Egypt. "Then Moses went up to God," this is up on the mountain, the Lord called him up to the mountain and said, "This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel. You yourselves have seen what I did in Egypt, how I carried you on eagle's wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey," if you what, church? Obey. Everybody say that again, if you what? "Obey me fully and keep my," what? Obey me fully and keep my what? Covenant. Keep my what? Covenant. The covenant has moved from Abraham to the whole nation of Israel.

"Keep my covenant, then out of all the nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests, a holy nation." In other words, I will be your ruler, follow my rules. Why? He's about to give them the Ten Commandments. Why would you follow the Ten Commandments? Listen, because God's rules are gold. They're truth in world of lies. They're cash in a world of trash. It's what you want. As soon as you figure out what the truth is, you would chase it with everything in you.

And by the way, the evidence that you trust in is that you obey him. Obedience is the evidence that you trust. If you say you trust God, but you don't obey, you don't trust. So, he's about to give the Ten Commandments. In our Grown-Up Faith book, I talk about that and kind of summarize them. Here, I'll just read it for you. "Have no other gods before me, in other words, don't bow to lesser things. No idols. Why? Because they are deaf, dumb, and powerless. Do not misuse my name, it's holy. Honor the sabbath, one in seven days, come worship, rest, because it's holy. Honor your father and your mother, in other words, honor authority while you're growing up. Do not murder. Why? Cause life is precious. Do not commit adultery. Why? Because marriage is a holy vow. Do not steal, you don't want people stealing from you. Do not lie, you don't want people lying to you or about you. Do not covet, see envy steals peace while destroying gratitude in relationship."

"And God delivered the rules along with a promise that if his people would follow them, they would be rewarded like no other. If you obey and follow and keep my covenant, God said, then out of all nations you will be a treasured possession. Although the whole world is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation."

See, God is doing something unique and special. God is forever good, follow his rules. God is forever good, follow his rules. Jot it down, God is forever good, follow his what? Rules. Because his rules give life. See, we say we are anti-rules, but the reality is, we don't want to get rid of the rules. We just want to make them. We want to rule. And listen, we never rule. We are always ruled.

I want you to just tell your neighbor right now, because they may not know it. You know this, but tell your neighbor, we never rule, we're always ruled. Tell your neighbor, just tell your neighbor. Just look over, say, we never rule, we're always ruled. Listen, the reason we can't make the rules is because we don't rule.

Let me put it this way, there are two distinct kingdoms operating. There is the kingdom of God and there is the kingdom of Satan. The kingdom of God, we'll just put here, Jesus' church. And that is the present kingdom of his church on earth. There is another kingdom, Satan's culture. This world, this fallen world filled with sin. Jesus is the ruler here and he sets the rules. And his kingdom is a forever kingdom and he will end the kingdom rule of Satan and cast him into darkness forever. But until then, Satan, because we gave up control and our role of ruling on the earth to him, Satan rules here on earth and he is the ruler and he sets his rules.

And these are two separate kingdoms. And when you come into the church through a relationship with Jesus, you come into the kingdom of God, you become under his ruler ship and you follow his rules because you know this is the truth. It is the what? Truth. This is the cash. And you know that Satan lives by what? Lies. This is the trash. Which means this, you know in the kingdom of God, with Jesus as the ruler, that there are rules, if you will, truth about creation, and truth about marriage, and truth about family, and truth about gender and God's beautiful design. And truth about the value of life, and truth about sexual expression, and truth about how you handle money, and truth about your soul.

Now watch this, I could write all those words, I could write creation, marriage, family, gender, life, sexual expression, money, and soul, watch this, and there are rules and values and views that are under the kingdom of God that are distinctively shaped different than the rules in Satan's culture, the world in which we live. Stay with me.

So therefore, it's no surprise that you and I live in a world who lives by their own rules. Because Satan is counterfeit. He's what? Counterfeit. 2 Corinthians 11:14 says Satan masquerades like an angel of light. The world has a completely different answer for origins in creation, for marriage, for family, for gender, for value of life, for how you manage money, for sexual expression. These two worlds do not mix or blend. This is the truth, and this is counterfeit. They can't come together.

And this is more challenging than we ever admit. We live in a world where we have the truth of God and we're supposed to figure out how to grab, chase the cash, the truth, instead of the trash values of this world. And if you ever notice how difficult it is just to grab the cash and not the counterfeit? Well, I thought I'd have some fun.

So, I'm going to have them bring out the cash cube and we're going to have a little bit of fun. I need somebody up here, don't move yet, I need somebody up here, let's say college age or 20s, who would like a little extra cash. If you're college age or 20s and you get up on the stage right now, the first one up, you got it.

And you are?

**Steven:** Steven.

**PK:** Steven, everybody say, hey, Steven!

Now Steven, there's a chance for you to make some money here. Is that a good thing?

**Steven:** Yes.

**PK:** You're all about that. Steven, here's how we're going to do it. We're going to have this little cash cube. And inside the cash cube, there is real money and there's counterfeit money. Do you see the difference? See how similar they look, but different? Similar, but different, right? That's what Satan does. Satan masquerades like he's the real thing.

So, I'm going to put you in there. You get to grab as much as you want, but you can't grab the counterfeit. You can only grab the real. If you come out with counterfeit, you get nothing.

**Steven:** Let's do it.

**PK:** Okay?

**Steven:** Let's do it.

**PK:** So, you'll only grab the real. And you'll realize, it's difficult in there when the truth and lies are blowing around all at the same time, which is true in all of life. So, let's go have some fun. Come on over here, here we go.

Yeah, come on, help him. Encourage him, step in there, don't step on the cash. Yep, step behind it. Turn and face everybody. Kick that cash forward. And that fake stuff, okay. We're going to give you 25 seconds. You can't reach down and grab it, it's all going to start blowing and you just kind of catch it while it's in the air. You got it?

You're going to have 25 seconds, we're going to cheer you on. Right, everybody? We're going to encourage you. Okay, you ready? I'm going to push it and then off you go. You ready? Let's cheer him on for 25 seconds, here it goes.

Come on, grab what you can, grab what you can, cheer him on. We want to help you win. We want to get the good, don't get the counterfeit. Just get the good stuff. 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0. Aah.

All right. All right, you've got counterfeit all over you. Come on out, let's see how you did. Let's put it right out here, did you get some? Look at this, fantastic! You got only the real stuff. Give it up, give it up. Listen, man, that right there is your job in life. As a follower of Jesus Christ, your goal is to live in a world where truth and lies are blowing all around you and you just want to grab the truth, you just want to grab the cash, right?

Looks like you got about $10.00. You did so well, I'm going to give you an option. You can either keep this ten or take the hundred. Let's see how gifted you are. Wrestle it down, what would you suggest? What are you going to go with? Smart man, take it. Off you go, well done, Steven.

Now, you understand what's going on. We live in a world where the truth and lies are blowing around us all the time and you've got to decide what are you going to chase. In fact, I want to suggest something here. I think sometimes the church, stay with me, is making mistakes by trying to bring God's rules into the world that is already under Satan's rule. And of course, they don't make sense. Stay with me, we're supposed to walk into the world and lead with love, not lead with rules. Because our rules make no sense because they're over here. Can you hear me? Can you hear me?

We shouldn't be running around the world, "Can you believe how the world lives?" Well, yeah. They're under Satan. Oh, but you know what some people do? They're like, "Oh, I don't believe that. I'm in this really special group, me, and I make my own rules." Welcome to the deception, because there is no third group. "Well, I don't follow Satan." I know, that's the deception, you don't believe you do. "Look how this world believes about creation, origins, marriage, family, gender, sexual expression, value of life, how they handle money." Are we surprised? They're very consistent.

And our job is not to get them to live like Jesus, they don't even know him. I don't think the role of the church is to go judge the world and make them live like Jesus when they don't even know him. How could we? Stay with me.

Equally, we've got another problem. We've got people coming from the world into the church, bringing the lies and saying the church ought to accept them. And the church is supposed to speak the truth in love. And I want you to hear this very clearly, scripture says our job as a church is not to judge the world, God's going to do that. We're supposed to love them. It's not our job to judge the world, Paul talks about it in Corinthians. But when it comes inside the church, we're supposed to judge inside the church to make sure we walk in truth. Do not bring trash living and thinking and ask the church to call sin holy when it's unholy. That destroys the church.

And there's a whole bunch of people in this world who think that this is where we're all supposed to live. That you can blend the rules of Satan and the holiness of God, and that right there is where we should find peace. And that's called false religion. And there's a bunch of false religion. See, these are two worlds that cannot come together. God help us follow God's rules, it's the cash. Don't follow the trash of the world.

And so now, we need to take action. We need to what? Take action. Who or what are you chasing? And who or what will you chase? Now I want to talk to a very specific group, if you call Twelve Stone home, this is your home church, and if you follow Jesus, so you're a Christian, you're truly a follower of Jesus, and I'm your pastor, then I want to talk to you. Do not take lightly this season God has us in. Aggressively engage a grown-up faith. Aggressively engage it.

If I'm your pastor and this is your home church and you're a follower of Christ, let's go after this. God transformed Abraham, he wanted to bless him. God transformed Moses and Israel, he wanted to bless them. There are things he wants to do in us and through us, but we have to grow up. We have to what? Grow up. We have to actively take action. We're in a grown-up season, this is the season God has us in. If you're a part of the church, join it. Get in a small group for six weeks. We created the material, I wrote the material. Get in a small group because God's going to prepare us for the new and next he has.

And after this series, on March 24th, I'm going to tell you about the next and the new, but this is preparation, and this is huge to where God is taking us. And to honest with you, you should be in a small group and you should own a book and devour it. Stay with me, only if you're in the group I'm talking about. Here's what I don't understand, I don't know why you would be at Twelve Stone, a follower of Christ, this is your home church, I'm your pastor, and you're like, "Nah, I'm doing this small group." I don't even understand it. I honestly don't. What is your point, then? You don't want to grow up? God has more for your marriage and your family and your future and your career and the impact of the kingdom of God through you and bless others and you don't want that?

I've got 500, 1000 hours in a book, you know I'm not trying to make money on the book, I'm giving it all back to the church. This isn't a money-making thing. In fact, you get in a small group and you can't afford a book, I'll buy you one, I'll make sure you get one. Tell your small group leader, "I can't afford a book." Great, PK will buy it for you.

I don't know how you would want to be a part of this and not be a part of it. You should go break our small group system by too many people signing up and saying, "We've got to get into this." Why? Because God is going to transform us in a season, he has us in a grown-up season.

Now pause. This past Friday I was praying through till 4:00 am in the morning because I couldn't go to sleep because God wouldn't let this go. So, I want to talk to men. Yes, this is for women, moms, ladies, middle school, high school kids, yes, get it. Students, yes. But, men, we ought to lead the way in growing up. We're supposed to be spiritual warriors. We're supposed to raise spiritual warriors. We're not supposed to be better at making money, we're supposed to be better at following Christ.

Don't leave this for somebody else. Get in a six-week small group, get a book. "Well, I don't read books." You do now. "I don't do small groups." You do for six weeks. Because God has stuff in front of you that he can't do unless we grow up together. So, listen, when you get done with this, you should have questions. And we're doing something so cool, grownupfaith.com, ask questions. You're in a small group, as questions as a small group. As a family, as questions. As an individual, ask questions. Send them to grownupfaith.com. Go to that site and for the first time ever, we're answering questions this way. Like direct accessible. You ask a question, here we go, this is courageous, we're going to answer it in three days, no matter how many questions come, for as long and fast as they come. From you and outside the church.

We're just going to get serious about growing up. And you have all kinds of questions, you should, and we're going to go after them. And we're going to post them as well send them back to you. Let's grow up together because God has a bigger and better life and God would bless us greatly if we would chase him fully. Quit chasing the trash, chase the cash because that is the truth of God and he will transform your life. And that's the better life.

So, I'm going to turn the service over to the campus pastors and we're going to pray, God, help us go experience that and take action and grow up.

**Speaker 8**: We're glad you're here and I want to tell you, each and every week we pray for you. We pray for all of us that we would experience the presence of God in this place, have an encounter with the love and the goodness of God. And we hope that happens for you today. So, we want you to engage and do more than just watch but sing and let your heart connect with the Spirit of God.

And so that's what we invite you to do today. We invite you to sing, we invite you to lift your voice. God is good and he deserves our worship today. So, let's lift him up. Let's worship the King of kings in this place, for his goodness and faithfulness today. Come on.

You ready to sing.

(singing)

Come on, let's declare it together, sing.

(singing)

Yes, you are!

(singing)

Yes, he is.

(singing)

Yes! Oh, you're faithful. With God, the promise. Come on, let's lift our voices together.

(singing)

Yes, you are!

(singing)

Come on, give him praise.