



## GOD'S INTERRUPTIONS

Will Bakker, GraceYouth Lead  
September 1, 2024

### Life Group Discussion

**Encouragement:** The schools in our region are back in session. Where did you go to school? When did you graduate? Share a personal highlight from elementary, middle, or high school. (teacher, coach, event, book, activity, etc.)

### Scripture:

- React to Will's big idea, "God's interruptions have a cost but are for your good and His glory." How have you seen this truth in your own life?
- Will used the Saul to Paul conversion story and Ananias's part in it as a biblical example of a life interrupted by God (Acts 9:1-19). Choose another biblical example or two:
  - o Abram and Sarai- [Genesis 12:1-7, 15:1-7](#)
  - o David and Samuel- [1 Samuel 16](#); [2 Samuel 7:8-16](#)
  - o Esther and Mordecai- [Esther 2:1-17, 3:8-9, 4:1-17](#)
  - o Zechariah and Elizabeth- [Luke 1:5-25](#)
- What similarities and differences do you see in these stories?
- How would you describe the main character before and after God's interruption?
- Since the time of the early church, God's interruptions have come mostly through the work of the Holy Spirit through God's Word or God's people. Describe how God has gotten your attention and interrupted your life.
- How are you challenged by Will's questions: Can you see an interruption as God trying desperately to tell you that He has better things for you in store? Can you see that change of your life direction as an opportunity for God to build the Kingdom and train up disciples through you?

**Prayer:** "Speak, for your servant is listening." ([1 Samuel 3:10](#)) Invite God to speak, to open eyes and hearts to His interruptions, to see circumstances through His eyes, to walk confidently in His ways.

**Next Steps:** What is your next small step of obedience this week?



## AWAKE THE LAKE: Grace's Missional Reorientation

Pastor Derek

September 8, 2024

### Life Group Discussion

**Encouragement:** Share your story of coming to Grace Church and making your way into this LifeGroup. How did God direct you (people, circumstances, events, etc.)?

Share a key takeaway from the sermon.

Sermon Big Idea: God can resurrect what has been written off.

4 Major Shifts at Grace Church

- 1- A Missional Reorientation
- 2- Changing the Scorecard of "Success"
- 3- Changing the Finish Line for Discipleship
- 4- Creating an All-Play, Everyday Mission Statement

### Scripture:

Read [Ezekiel 37:1-14](#)

- In verse 11, the bones cry out, '*Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.*' When have you felt dried up, hopeless, or cut off? Spiritually? Relationally? Often, these seasons come as a result of our sin or the sin of others.
- Verse 14 gives the people hope. What is the hope that you hear in those verses?

Read [Ezekiel 37:21-28](#)

- King David is long dead when Ezekiel prophesies. It is his descendant, Jesus, who will reign. How does Jesus fulfill Ezekiel's prophecy? How are Jesus' followers (the Church) described in verses 24-27? What is the outcome of the prophecy in verse 28?

Read [Matthew 5:14-16](#); [John 17:20-23](#); [John 20:21](#); [Acts 1:8](#)

- How has Jesus Christ commissioned the Church to fulfill Ezekiel 37:28?
- What could it look like in your day-to-day life to live out the Grace church mission?

Following Jesus as we live out God's story every day, everywhere

**Prayer:** Use [Colossians 1:9-14](#) to pray for Grace's leadership, staff, volunteers, and all who attend.

**Next Steps:** What has been written off in your life that God needs to resurrect?



## AWAKE THE LAKE: A Deep Discipleship

Pastor Derek

September 15, 2024

### Life Group Discussion

**Encouragement:** Describe a future dream that you had when you were young- a dream job, a dream car, a dream house, etc. How close is reality to that dream? Would you change the present to match the dream or would you change the dream to match your present reality?

**Scripture:** Read [John 13:34-35](#); [John 15:1-11](#); [Matthew 28:18-20](#); [Acts 1:8](#)

- According to these scriptures, what is Jesus' dream for his disciples?
- What are some of the actions and activities of his dream disciples?
- How has Jesus equipped us to be his dream disciples?

Grace Church's definition of a Disciple = An apprentice who imitates the words, character, and lifestyle of Jesus and influences others to do the same.

- Brainstorm the words, character, and lifestyle of Jesus. (love, humility, simplicity, etc.)
- Reflect on the 4 Dream Disciple roles that Grace Church is seeking to develop in all of us. (See the Dream Disciple document on the following page for definitions and questions.)
  - o Compassionate Storyteller
  - o Savvy Follower
  - o Intentional Friend
  - o Embedded Influencer:
- Do you know someone who lives out one of these roles in their everyday life? Describe how they imitate Christ in this role.
- How do these roles resonate with you? How are you already becoming a dream disciple? In what area would you like to grow more? (You don't have to be a 10 in all of them right away!)

**Prayer:** Use [Ephesians 3:14-21](#) to pray for one another and for Grace Church.

**Next Steps:** Pastor Derek said that every human is a disciple of someone or something and that we are becoming who we are by who or what disciples us. Who or what is discipling you? What does it look like to step closer to Jesus in this season?



### **Our Dream Disciple:**

As disciples of Jesus, we tell a better story when we live out these four roles:

#### **Compassionate Storyteller:**

I know God's story, my place in it, and am motivated to tell the people in my life.

- Where is God showing up in my story this week?
- Who needs to hear God's story through my story?

#### **Intentional Friend:**

I partner with God to build healthy relationships and restore broken ones.

- Who in my life needs me the most during this season? And what is my next step with them?
- Where do I need to lean into a relationship that has become distant or broken?

#### **Savvy Follower:**

I discern God's voice and follow his lead at the right time in the right way.

- What has God spoken to me through His word this week and what am I doing about it?
- What decision am I facing right now that requires God's unique perspective and how will I seek it?

#### **Embedded Influencer:**

I understand how God has purposefully gifted and positioned me to multiply His work in the world.

- How have I leveraged my unique skills or position this week for God's mission?
- What is one situation in my life right now that I am uniquely equipped to influence?



## AWAKE THE LAKE: A Clear Calling

Pastor Derek

September 22, 2024

### Life Group Discussion

**Encouragement:** Share one of your gifts or talents with the group. What did it look like to discover that gift/talent and then develop it? How are you using that gift/talent in your everyday life?

### Scripture:

Read [Genesis 1:26-30](#) and a few other biblical "calling" stories:

Abram & Sarai- [Genesis 12:1-3](#)

Ruth- [Ruth 1](#)

Jeremiah- [Jeremiah 1:4-10](#)

Ezra- [Ezra 7:1-14](#)

Mary- [Luke 1:26-38](#)

Simon Peter- [Luke 5:1-11](#)

- The creation story forms the backdrop for human calling and purpose. God creates a good and perfect garden, then commands Adam and Eve to care for, cultivate, and create more of that goodness (Gen 1:26-30). How did the Fall (Gen 3) make it difficult for humanity to fulfill God's calling and purpose?
- How do other biblical calling stories reflect God's command to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth with His goodness?
- Each of these calling stories fulfills the Genesis 1 mandate, yet each is unique. How would you describe the calling for each of these individuals?
- Do some of these calling stories seem to rank higher or more important than others? Yet all are part of God's Story for the redemption of the world. What do these stories teach you about God? What do they teach you about your calling?
- Describe someone in your life who is living out God's calling. What parts of these stories do you see reflected in their life?

**Prayer:** Use [Ephesians 2:8-10](#) to praise God and pray over one another.

**Next Steps:** Will your group attend the LAUNCH class together? Visit [www.whoisgrace.com](http://www.whoisgrace.com) to sign up!



## AWAKE THE LAKE: A Regional Reach

Pastor Derek

September 29, 2024

### Life Group Discussion

**Encouragement:** How did you end up calling the Erie region your home? When you leave for vacation or a work trip, are you excited to come home? What do you think it would look like in your home, workplace, school, or neighborhood if we succeed in this vision to Awake the Lake?

**Scripture:** Read [Genesis 1:26-30](#); [Genesis 11:1-9](#); [Matthew 25:14-30](#)

- God gave humanity, made in His image, stewardship over creation. Through the Fall, that gift of stewardship got tangled up in our sin and selfishness. How does the Genesis 11 story of the Tower of Babel reflect a lack of stewardship for God's creation and His Genesis 1:26-30 vision of humanity?
- What lessons is Jesus teaching his disciples about stewardship in God's Kingdom (Matt 25)?
- Which servant are you from the parable? What makes these choices difficult?
  - o Choose urgency over apathy (:16-19)
  - o Choose risk over inactivity (:20-27)
  - o Choose God's reward over God's wrath (:21, 28-30)
- What stands out to you from this segment of the Awake the Lake vision-  
"The challenge at hand is to believe God's people are his greatest missional force. Imagine if by 2035 a new dawn has arrived. 30,000 people are mobilized to step into their kingdom calling in every sector of society. We have now become a movement that has sent the church to people who may never enter one. What started in Erie is now reaching from Cleveland to Buffalo as embedded influencers have saturated the lakeshore with the light of the Gospel."
- In which part of God's missional force do you see yourself?
- What will it take to mobilize ourselves, to step into Kingdom calling, to share the light of Christ wherever we live, work, learn, and play?

**Prayer:** Use [John 20:21](#) to pray for Grace Church and each individual (pray for this group by name)- that we would be faithful followers of Jesus, living out God's story every day, everywhere.

**Next Steps:** What is a step you can take to be a faithful steward of every good gift God has given you?