

Is He Worthy?

Why does Fairhaven give itself away to help underserved and unreached people in so many places around the world? Why do these “ripples” matter so much? What is it that fires your engines and causes you to give and give, send and send, pray and go?



INTRODUCTION

When we look at the ripple effects in our lives, we discover that it's often in the power of small decisions and divine moments that God orchestrates His kingdom plan. Guest speaker Dr. David Thompson gives us a powerful example of the ripple effects from his life and ministry and helps us see the bigger picture of Fairhaven's global work—while reminding us of the one who is worthy of our praise.

STARTER QUESTION

1. Can you remember an event in your life—maybe it was a small decision or what seemed to be a random incident or coincidence—that profoundly impacted your future in ways you never expected?

INTO THE WORD

2. Read Proverbs 3:5-6 together. What are the commands you find in these verses? How hard is it to follow these commands? What is the promise or commitment from God when we obey?
3. Name three major areas in our lives where it's easy to “lean on our own understanding” instead of trusting in God? What kind of ripple effects are created when we do life alone, apart from God? In contrast, describe the type of ripple effects that can happen when we fully obey these words in Proverbs.
4. In John 15:5, Jesus says that if we remain in him, we will bear much fruit, but apart from him, we can do nothing. How do we know if we're doing work “with” Jesus or just trying to do it on our own? Are there other Bible passages that come to mind to help us answer this?

APPLICATION

5. During one of the most challenging moments in Dr. David Thompson's life, God asked him, “Do you trust me?” In what areas of your life do you feel like God is asking, “Do you trust me?”
6. God wants to produce powerful ripple effects through our lives and our church, but we must trust him with the next step. Author and inspirational speaker, Joni Erickson Tada, once said, “Faith isn't the ability to believe long and far into the misty future. It's simply taking God at His Word and taking the next step.” Describe what your “next step” might to start fully trusting God today.
7. One of the most challenging parts about trusting God is that we don't always understand his plan. In Isaiah 55:8-9, God lets us know that his ways are not our ways. Take a few minutes and journal a prayer to God—ask him to give you both the courage and faith to trust him fully—even when you don't understand. When you're done, if you feel comfortable, share your thoughts with the group.

PRAYER

Father, we thank you for your grace and kindness. It's amazing that you desire to work in and through us for your plan and your glory. Guide us as your people to fully rest in your powerful promises and guide us to walk with you in faith—even when we don't understand your ways. We give all our praise to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.