



Risk: Dream Stealers | March 29, 2017

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

Comfort zones have the potential to steal our dreams. God encourages us to find joy in difficulty because they cause us to grow. Dreams are always on the other side of difficulty, just outside our comfort zone.

Key Verse

James 1:2-4 (NLT)

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

Discussion

In Bruce Wilkinson's *The Dream Giver*, he tells a story of a boy named Ordinary who lives in a town called Familiar. The story is all about Ordinary's desire to leave Familiar. Throughout the story, Ordinary has to overcome obstacles, get out of his comfort zone, and take risks in order to experience more than Familiar.

1. How would you describe your comfort zone?
2. Can you think of a time you stepped out of your comfort zone? Why? What happened?

In Ordinary's story, he runs into a number of well meaning people who show their concern for Ordinary doing things beyond Familiar. His mom shows genuine concern. His Uncle explains that we are just not meant for anything other than ordinary. And his best friend admirably says he isn't going to watch his friend make such a huge mistake. However, what if the key to experiencing all that God has designed for us is just outside of our comfort zone...just outside familiar?

3. What is a life risk you have been afraid to take and why?
4. Who are your biggest supporters and who would have the hardest time if you stepped out of your comfort zone?

God wants us to experience bigger and better. He designed us to engage in the unknown, step into discomfort, and have unlikely successes. God tells us in James 1:2-4 that we need to shift our perspective on the unknown and the risky. We should consider it pure joy when we are challenged because in those challenges we grow. Ordinary decides to turn his challenges into opportunities to grow and learn. Without challenges we may not experience God in the same way.

5. What opposition or challenge have you faced that has allowed you to grow?
6. What might you be holding back on that could be the next growth opportunity?

What's Next?

Ordinary's story reminds us that everybody who has ever achieved great things has faced and overcome difficulty. Great sailors were not made on calm seas. This week, pray about your challenges and ask God what he wants from you. Shift your attitude toward difficulty and see it as an opportunity rather than opposition.