



Designing Life: Prototype | January 30, 2019

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

One thing I've learned about life is that if you want to do big things, you have to start small. Read more about how prototyping applies to your faith below.

Key Verses

Zechariah 4:10 (NIV)

"Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin, to see the plumb line in Zerubbabel's hand."

Discussion

Sometimes, the greatest things in life happen when we aren't even really looking for them. The three Ms in the company 3M stand for Minnesota, mining and manufacturing. But funny enough, the company 3M is actually most famous for the sticky note. Before the sticky note was invented, 3M was looking for a strong adhesive that they could use on planes. Instead however, they stumbled upon a glue that could peel and stick over and over again. When we prototype, take even the smallest step forward to try something out, we never really know where it's going to take us. All we know is that we probably won't get it right on the first try, and we may even end up in a different place than we anticipated in the beginning.

1. When was the last time you "prototyped" something in your life? A routine, career adjustment, etc.? What was taking the first step like?
2. How did your prototype progress into the finished product? Was it the outcome you were expecting, or something different?

Almost all of us could probably agree that our faith and life journeys most likely have not been the path that we would have anticipated. There are lots of twists and turns where we've had to pivot and refocus. In addition, it's nearly impossible to predict where we are going to be five years from now. When we think big picture about where we want to go, and how we want to invite God to journey along with us, we may need to focus just on our very first step. In the book, *The Divine Direction*, the author Craig Groeschel says that if we want to do big things, we must start small. This is applicable to everything in life – faith, career, family and more.

3. Why do you think we have a tendency to want to have everything figured out? Why does it stress us out to think that our journey will most likely be different than we anticipate?
4. What is one area of your life you need to "start small" in? What is holding you back?

In Zechariah 4:10, a prophet casts a vision for rebuilding the temple. If you think about the entire task of rebuilding the temple, it might be easy to get overwhelmed – especially if you were the one tasked with the actual labor! So instead of thinking about the entire process all at once, we have to break it down step by step. And the hardest part of all, most of the time, is getting ourselves to start. We look at what little progress we make in the beginning and get disheartened. But the bible says in this passage, not to be discouraged by small beginnings. We all have to start somewhere.

5. Do you get overwhelmed easily when thinking about big goals? Why or why not? Does it encourage you that God says not to be discouraged by small beginnings?
6. Is it your first instinct when looking at a big goal to break it down step by step? Why?

What's Next?

It's almost as if God is reminding us in this story that we don't need to have it all figured out. All He is asking us to do is take the first step. It's like when a little kid learns to walk. When a parent sees their child take their first step, even if they fall immediately after, they jump up and celebrate. Imagine God doing that every time you take even the smallest step forward in faith.

This week, as you live out your faith, instead of feeling paralyzed by the belief that you need to have everything figured out in life, decide to take just one step. Think about something you've been wanting to try or something in your faith that is a little bit different or scary, and decide to try. If you want to do big things, resolve to be ok starting small. Be encouraged that God will go with you and celebrate every step of the way.