

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Session 6: Go Be The Church—Margins

(Week 6, November 13–19)

GROUP DISCUSSION

Being the church is something God expects of His family for a lifetime, not for a short season.

A margin is the space between my load (all of life's expectations) and my limit (the capacity to accomplish all that is demanded of me).

Ask the group to discuss the following:

- What are some of the daily expectations that I face in all my roles? (As a parent, student, spouse, employee, coach, business owner, military member, team mom, church member, ministry leader, etc.)
- What are some of my limitations? (Time, physical, financial, emotional, mental, and spiritual limits)
- *Everything has its limits, but your commands have no limit.* Psalm 119:96

Pastor Rick and Steve used the term “bottle-rocket Christian.” Discuss what they meant by that term and what it looks like in real life. (Host note: A Christian who gets involved in too much too soon with little to no balance in his/her life. They shine brightly for a brief season, fizzle out, and quickly fall away.)

God has built in margins to protect us from overdoing it, becoming unbalanced, and fading away. Read the following scriptures and discuss the safeguards God has established:

- *You have six days each week for your ordinary work, but on the seventh day you must stop working. That gives your ox and donkey a chance to rest.* Exodus 23:12 NLT
 - Does anyone have more time than others? (We all have 168 hours per week)
 - What safeguard has God built in for balance?
 - Why can't I say “no”?
 - Do you use this guardrail to your advantage or ignore it?
 - If we ignore God's margin, what are the possible consequences?

- *It is useless for you to work so hard from morning until late at night, anxiously working for food to eat; for God gives rest to his loved ones.* Psalm 127:2 NLT
 - Discuss why it is “useless” to constantly work hard?
 - Why do we celebrate over-doers in our culture?
 - What is God’s rest about?

In the teaching video, Steve explained his three-night rule. How could you use something like this to have better balance in your life?

Steve mentioned his three-person rule. What could you do to protect yourself from doing too much or too little daily?

Read Matthew 11:28–30.

- What is the invitation given by Jesus? (To come and stay close to Him daily)
- What is the promise given by Jesus? (Rest for my soul)

CAMPAIGN CONCLUSION

I will be the church at home.

I will be the church at work/school.

I will be the church in my community.

I will be the church in and through Emmanuel’s ministries.

I will overcome the challenges of being the church by God’s grace.

I will be the church for the rest of my life by building in margins.

WEEKLY BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

You have six days each week for your ordinary work, but on the seventh day you must stop working. That gives your ox and donkey a chance to rest. Exodus 23:12 NLT

PRAYER FOCUS

God, help me to establish margins in my life so that I can be what you want me to be and do what you want me to do for a lifetime. Keep me from being a “bottle-rocket” Christian.