

Small Groups

DISCUSSION GUIDE

“COURAGE FOR THE CLIMB ” PART 4

PASTOR BLACKBURN AND PASTOR JEFF SELLERS – SEPTEMBER 22, 2025

AS THE DISCUSSION LEADER, THERE ARE A FEW THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND:

- Pray for your group discussion time!
- Review your notes from the Sunday message and familiarize yourself with the discussion questions before your group meeting.
- Choose a few questions from the guide that will generate the most discussion in your group.

GETTING TO KNOW ME (ICEBREAKER):

What's one unfinished project or hobby you've started but never finished — and why?

(Fun way to connect to the idea of starting with energy, but hitting discouragement or delay.)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Have someone read 1 Corinthians 4:1-5.
- The message talked about Delay, Doubt, Defeat, and Discouragement.
Which of these “D’s” have you personally battled recently, and how did you handle it?
- Nehemiah 4:6 describes the wall being halfway built — and that's when discouragement set in.
Why do you think the “middle” of a journey or project is often the most challenging part?
What does that reveal about our endurance and expectations?
- The people were overwhelmed by the “rubble” — the leftover debris.
What “rubble” is in your life right now (habits, distractions, clutter, unresolved issues) that's keeping you from moving forward? How can you begin clearing it out?
- Nehemiah's people became fearful because of threats and negativity around them.
Whose voice (internal or external) tends to discourage you the most?
What would it look like to replace those voices with God's truth?
- One antidote to discouragement was to rest and reorganize (Nehemiah 4:13).
Are there any areas of your life right now where you need to step back, reprioritize, or regroup?
What practical step can you take this week to do that?
- Nehemiah told the people: “Remember the Lord who is great and awesome.” When you're discouraged, what helps you remember God's goodness, presence, and power? (Scripture, worship, journaling, community, etc.)
- Discouragement is often a choice — to believe God or give in to fear.
What's one promise or truth from God's Word that helps you resist discouragement when it comes?
(Optional: Look up Psalm 119:25, Jonah 2:7, or James 4:7 together.)

PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES:

- Shawn & Megan Deal – **Uganda**
- Eric and Bethany Judd (Zach, Talitha, and Jael) – **Mongolia**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Wednesday, September 24, 6:30 PM— Remember all **Victory Life** classes, support groups, Royal Rangers, Girls Ministries, and VSC! Visit victorylakeland.com/classes to learn more.

Sunday, September 27, 10:45 AM— Join us for **GrowTrack** each Sunday morning in the GrowTrack Room at 10:45. You will learn about the Vision and Mission of Victory Church.