

small group study guide

for the week of 11 18 2018 [DIVINE DIRECTION: Faith to Start]

Key Scripture

Do not despise these small beginnings, for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin... Zechariah 4:10 NLT

How to Do Something Big

1. Start Small

Then I said to them, "You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace." I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work. Nehemiah 2:17-18 NIV

2. Take the Next Step

But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. "What is this you are doing?" they asked. "Are you rebelling against the king?" I answered them by saying, "The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding ..." Nehemiah 2:19-20 NIV

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9 NIV

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Are you more of a starter or a finisher? What makes you say that?
- What's something you've been thinking about starting for a while, but haven't?

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- Read Zechariah 4:10. Do you think of God as one who rejoices over small beginnings? How does this affect your decisions?
- Do you have any divine burdens? What makes you think this thought: "This isn't right. Someone needs to do something about this!"

Start sharing. Choose questions that create openness.

- What's something God is calling you to start?
- What's your very next step?
- What about starting is making you the most worried or discouraged? How can we pray together with you?

Start praying. Be bold, and pray with power.

God, give us the courage to dream big and start small. Grant us the faith to start even we have no clue how we'll finish. Lend us the persistence to be faithful with the little things. And Father, we trust You to be with us through the finish. Amen.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Set some small goals, tied to dates. Then, ask someone to help you stay on schedule.
- Find and memorize a theme Scripture to inspire your new adventure.