

SERMON NOTES

"POEMA" Part 2 - OPPORTUNITIES & EXPERIENCE

POEMA recap –

Ephesians 2:10 NIV - 10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

NLT = masterpiece

2. OPPORTUNITIES

- Moses

Exodus 4:2, 20 (NKJV)

2 So the LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" He said, "A rod." ...

20 Then Moses took his wife and his sons and set them on a donkey, and he returned to the land of Egypt. And Moses took the rod of God in his hand.

- The sons of Issachar: God gives windows of opportunity,

1 Chronicles 12:32 - "of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do"

Acts 17:26-27 (NKJV) - "And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 "so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;"

Success is where preparation and opportunity meet. Bobby Unser

Opportunities are:-

- Resources and possessions you have;
- Relationships, friendships, people and teams that you are linked to or have access to;
- A pressing need that is not being met. Chaos or distress around you are Opportunities in God's hands
- "Open doors" where there is a chance to do something for a limited time

1 Corinthians 16:9 (NKJV) - 9 For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work. Thomas A. Edison

- David and Goliath -

"In the midst of every crisis, lies great opportunity." — Albert Einstein

Questions:

- What material resources are at your disposal that can be used for a cause or a ministry or to help others?
- What unusual favour or open doors are at your disposal that can be used for a cause or a ministry or to help others?

- What relationships or partnerships do you have that can be used for a cause or a ministry or to help others?
- What are the pressing needs around you that you can help solve? These can be in your Church, family, community or wider afield.
- What do your Church leaders and family say you could be doing?

There ARE opportunities - "which God prepared in advance for us to do."

"The opportunity of a lifetime must be seized within the lifetime of the opportunity." **Leonard Ravenhill**

Other verses used in this section:

Psalm 95:7, Hebrews 4:7, 2 Corinthians 6:2, Ephesians 4:11-12, Psalm 139:13-17

3. EXPERIENCE

Romans 8:28 (NASB20) - 28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

- A NEW "PLAN A" - Redemption

Every moment is an experience. **Jake Roberts**

- What skills or experiences have you learned from in your life?
- What have you been successful at in the past?
- What negative experiences in your past make you able to empathise with others and able to help them?

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NKJV)

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,
4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

- What are your Passions and Opportunities for which you NEED more experience and training?

Experience teaches only the teachable. **Aldous Huxley**

Mark 4:28 (NKJV) - 28 "For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head."

- Your leaders and the Body:

Ephesians 4:11-12 (NKJV)

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

Other verses used in this section:

1 Timothy 3:6, Genesis 21:15, Genesis 37-50, Exodus 7:7, 2 Samuel 5:4-5, Luke 3:23, Galatians 2:1

Please go to www.poema.page for the full POEMA course

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDES

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

1 - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

2 - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

3 - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do **PRACTICALLY** in response to this teaching?

4 - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

The blessing and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.