

SUMMER

AT HIGHLANDS

Part 8

Big Idea

In this week's message, Pastor Chris continues to focus on a core value of Church of the Highlands: that we are all here to make a difference in our world. Specifically, we see how we have the opportunity to make a difference for those closest to us, for our generation, and for God. We, the Church, are called to be the solution to wickedness and to be the light in the darkness. Pastor Chris acknowledges that the "Fear Factor" often makes us reluctant to be a difference-maker, but he explains how God can help us overcome what we fear. Some of us are afraid of the past, but we have to let go of the past so it can let go of us. Some of us are afraid of the crowd, but we have to be more concerned about obeying God than looking foolish. Some of us are afraid of taking the first step, but we have to step out to find what God wants to do through us. Lastly, some of us are afraid of failure, but we need to remember God promises to be with us always. Through a final illustration of the time we are given on earth, we are prompted to make the most of the time we have left to make an eternal difference.

"As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man." – Matthew 24:37

Discussion Questions

- Think about who is in your sphere of influence. Share some ways you can make an eternal difference in your family and others within your sphere. What steps do you need to take to increase your influence?
- Read 1 Kings 19:11-12. What gentle whisper has the Lord spoken to you? How did you respond? Share how this message changes the way you will listen for God's whispers and respond to make a difference.
- Share your response to the 0 – 110 year ruler that Pastor Chris demonstrated. Explain how the length of your ruler impacts your approach to stepping out to make a difference.

Prayer Focus

Thank you, God, for choosing me to live at this time in order to make a difference for those close to me and for this generation for Your glory. Lord, give me the strength, courage, and initiative to step forward boldly and conquer my fears. Let me be open to hear your whispers and respond to your call to make a difference.

Next Step

Assess what you are currently doing that makes an eternal difference, and look for ways to grow your influence. Consider leading a small group, joining the Dream Team, or becoming regularly involved in outreach. Attend the Growth Track, if you have not done so, and consider repeating Step 3 and Step 4 if you need a refresher or wish to step forward in a different area.

Leader Tip

Encourage members to step forward in making a difference. Invite them to attend the Growth Track and Small Group Leadership Training. For more information, visit: www.churchofthehighlands.com/connect/growth-track and www.churchofthehighlands.com/groups.