

Leader Guide

My Possible Impossible Life

Fall 2023 | Week 2

Message Date 9/24/2023

THE GOAL

This week Pastor Craig talked about *My Possible Impossible Life* with regard to the church. One of the concepts we will be talking about is the issue of church hurt. We recognize that church hurt is a real thing. We want to provide a space for people to heal and find wholeness while talking about some of these experiences. However, the goal is not to live in bitterness with regard to these issues. God is challenging us to step onto higher ground even if we're still feeling pain or anger about our past experiences. The goal this week is to talk about what our church could look like if I, as the individual, take hold of the vision for me personally, because as I do, we become the possible impossible church.

MY STORY

- 1) If you could instantly become an expert in something, what would it be?
- 2) Would you rather be able to run at 100 miles per hour or fly at 10 miles per hour?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

One of the things Pastor Craig talked about was the idea and experience of church hurt (being hurt by the church or a person in the church in some way).

- 4) What is church hurt, and what kinds of things can it cause? (define it)

These are wounds that we experience by either a person in the church or multiple people. This can come in the form of gossip. It can come in the form of judgment and condemnation. It can come in the form of legalism. Think about this for a moment: if legalism is the goal and perfection is the expectation, it's an unachievable expectation. It can cause anxiety, brokenness, deconstruction, hopelessness, grief and bitterness if not addressed, among other problems.

- 5) Have you ever been hurt in the church before? If so, how were you able to overcome it? What choices did you make to help yourself heal?

I recognize that this question could bring up lots of pain. That is not the goal. The goal with this question is to help people understand that we want to be the church where people can find healing and wholeness from wounds from past experiences. You don't want to linger on the negative here. We want to talk about how we found healing. I have been hurt by people in the church who had the best of intentions but have done a poor job in communicating. I have also experienced gossip tearing a church apart and having to close its doors. I chose to forgive and learn from those lessons so as to not repeat them.

- 6) If we want to see the impossible happen with what feels impossible here at Heights Church, how do we need to address and help people deal with church hurt?

John 13:34-35 NLT

³⁴ So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. ³⁵ Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”ⁱ

- 7) How do these words of Jesus guide us in being a healthy church?

People will see and experience God's love through us.

Pastor Craig gave us a list of characteristics that God wants our church to possess. These would make the impossible possible because it's only what God can do in us individually and then corporately.

- We choose to be honest and keep our word regardless of the cost.
- We choose to add value to people rather than use them for our own end.
- We choose to be the most responsible person at the job site.
- We choose to follow through on our commitments as far as we are able.
- We choose to bring our best efforts to whatever we do rather than the minimum.
- We choose to defuse our anger rather than feed it.
- We choose to resolve our conflict rather than become victims of it.
- We choose to cover the weakness of others rather than humiliate them.
- We choose to remain faithful in marriage.
- We seek purity in our singleness.
- We choose to care about the least of these in our city.
- We choose to seek restoration over revenge.
- In a generation that is growing cold and hard-hearted, motivated by greed, envy, and what it wants others to have, we choose to respond with lives of generosity, including our time, talents, and treasure as His church.

- 8) From this list what is most challenging for you to do? Who can you invite to join you in praying for you to grow in this area?

This is not about strict legalism but an invitation to partnership with what God wants to do in your life. This provides prayer support and accountability.

- 9) Imagine taking hold of the traits listed that God wants to give to you. What does that look like for you and our church? Does this task feel impossible? If so, explain.

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

Think and pray through the list from Pastor Craig above, and ask God the following questions.

- 1) From the list, what does God want me to do first?
- 2) Ask the Lord, “What do I do well from the list?” Thank Him for the grace to do it.
- 3) Ask God to show you how to be the embodiment of these characteristics.

ⁱ Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015), Jn 13:34–35.