

PATH TO PEACE

TALK IT OVER

Lesson Learned

NextGen Weekend 2026

Pastor Kurt Johnston

May 2-3, 2026

If you would like to watch the weekend message, visit www.saddleback.com/watch.

Open your group in prayer and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the questions provided or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions at the end of the document.

Scriptures

1 Samuel 3:9–10, Esther 4:14, 2 Kings 2:23–25, John 6:1–11

Questions

1. Words and actions are powerful. Share a time your words or actions made a difference in someone's life, or share a time someone's words or actions made a difference in your life.
2. 1 Samuel 3:9–10 (NIV) says, “So Eli told Samuel, ‘Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place. The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ Then Samuel said, ‘Speak, for your servant is listening.’” Samuel had to learn how to recognize and respond to God’s voice. Why do we have trouble hearing his voice? What distractions keep you from hearing him clearly, and how will you intentionally slow down to listen?
3. Esther 4:14 (NIV) says, “For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?” Esther's comfort and convenience collided with what God asked her to do. How does this passage change your understanding of responsibility when God prompts you to act? Where do you see opportunities to promote, protect, or provide for someone?
4. 2 Kings 2:23–25 (NIV) says, “From there Elisha went up to Bethel. As he was walking along the road, some boys came out of the town and jeered at him. “Get out of here, baldy!” they said. “Get out of

here, baldy!” He turned around, looked at them and called down a curse on them in the name of the Lord. Then two bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the boys. And he went on to Mount Carmel and from there returned to Samaria.” When are you most tempted to speak without thinking or speak in a way that tears down? Reflect on a recent situation where your words may have caused harm. In the future, how could you use the following questions to respond differently: Do I need to proceed? Is what I’m going to say true, necessary, and kind? Is it the right time?

5. John 6:1–11 (NIV) says, *“Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. The Jewish Passover Festival was near. When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. Philip answered him, “It would take more than half a year’s wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!” Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?” Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.”* How does this story change your perspective about what you have to offer, especially when it feels small? Where do you see God working in your family, community, and world? What time, talent or resources will you contribute toward what God is doing?

Three Essential Questions

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message.

1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you’ve learned today?*

Are you interested in the Bible and in helping small groups benefit from the weekend message? Well, you are in luck! Saddleback members like you create these discussion guides each week. If you are interested in joining the team, please email JasonW@saddleback.com.