



Scrappy Church Bible Study Pt. 1 January 7th & January 10th, 2024

What The Church Can Learn From Amazon:

- Amazon is what's right in the world. It's the embodiment of the future and the hope for society. If we are truly living in a material world, Amazon is king, queen, and crown prince of this world. (Pg. 1)
- Jeff Bezos is the creator of Amazon, and Amazon started as an Internet bookstore. Amazon has gone from one online bookstore, to now Amazon is all across the country. Amazon become popular because of connecting with communities, fun events, offering personal events, curated books so consumers could better understand, and established new local ideas (Pg. 3-4)
- The Church can learn from Amazon, because it doesn't matter about the size of the Church but the important part of the Church is the heart of it! Too often we look at the Church and want to judge it by size, but just because the Church doesn't have the biggest membership doesn't mean it can't have the biggest influence!
- Amazon is known throughout the world, and it is said that Amazon ships over 1 Million packages a day! You go to Amazon because it is convenient, it makes things easy, and you see some products that you

can get with a better price and even quicker especially when you are a prime member. What draws you to the Church, what is it about the Church that makes you want to come, and why do you show up.

- Being an effective Church is more than just being here because of tenure, many times people show up to Church because of tenure but what are they doing? A Church should always have goals, mission, and a purpose as to why we are doing what we are doing!
- We are a "Working Church" - 1 Thessalonians 2:9 ESV - For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.
- We are a "Well Established Church" - Colossians 2:8-10 ESV - See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. [9] For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, [10] and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.
- We are a "Focused Church" - Matthew 28:18-20 ESV - And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Change The Language Of The Church:

1. "We can't compete with the megachurch in our town"
2. "A new Church was started two blocks from us. We've got plenty of Churches without them!"
3. "The Church brought another one of their campuses near us. It's totally unethical what they are doing."

4. "We can't reach young families. They all go to big Church that has all the children's and student stuff. We don't have the money or the people the other Churches have." (Pg. 4 - 5)

- It is not our job to compete with other Churches, but it is our job to do the best with what the Lord has given us. Too often Churches make the mistake and cause themselves to still be in the wrong frame of mind when we try to outperform another Church!
- Every Church has its own personality and every Church has its own culture! The issue is.... When a Church loses itself, because it's too concerned with trying to be another Church then you miss the special scent that you have! If another Church is doing great things in ministry don't bash them but applaud them, because Ministry is not about being better but Ministry is about being Godly and effective!
- The other thing is that the Church shouldn't talk about what we don't have, but the Church needs to start talking about what we can have. Of course some Churches have more than other Churches, but that doesn't mean the Church you are at is insignificant, but sometimes you have to step up to the plate and give more, do more, and pray for more!
- You can't pray for what you aren't displaying! People want the Church to be powerful, impactful, or active but how can the Church continue to grow and walk in doors, when not everybody is desiring to want to be better!
- The Church doesn't lose when it follows the right game plan! The game plan is the word of God not what we say, the Church never has and never will belong to man but the Church will always belong to God. If the Lord didn't say it why do it, just because man said do it doesn't mean that God said do it or that it was Biblical, but the Church has to always do what God says!
- We miss God when we focus on trying to shine! The star of the show is Jesus Christ and not us, and when we focus on Jesus Christ there are no limits to the Church, but when we let people control things there will always be limits especially when we follow and listen to people who don't

have any vision! Too often we want what God wants, but sometimes we want to do it our way instead of the way the Lord desires, because we should never focus on what we want but it is what the Lord wants!

- The Lord is the guide of the Church, the Lord is the power of the Church, and with the Lord why should we think we can't do extraordinary things as the Church. You only think that when you listen to the wrong voices, you only think that when you follow the wrong voices, and you only think that when you allow people to have more of a voice than the Lord.
- The Church messes up when the Lord's voice isn't the main voice! The Church stands at a stand still when the Lord's voice isn't the main voice, and the Church will never have confidence when it doesn't follow the right voice! The Church has to focus, the Church has to believe, and the Church has to not fiddle in things that aren't bringing progress!
- The Church Should Be "Confident" - John 6:9-12 ESV - "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" [10] Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. [11] Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. [12] And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost."
- The Church Should Be "Biblical" - Psalm 119:105-106 ESV - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. [106] I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to keep your righteous rules.
- The Church Should Be "Working" - Matthew 5:13-16 ESV - "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. [14] "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. [15] Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. [16] In the same way, let your light shine before

others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

- The Church Should Be "Prayerful" - 1 Kings 3:7-12 ESV - And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. [8] And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. [9] Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?" [10] It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. [11] And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, [12] behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.

Hope Resides In The Church:

- "They want to know if there is hope. God's hope. God's possibilities. And the answer is an unequivocal "yes!" God is not done with your church. He put your church in your location for a reason. Do you really think He does not desire your church to become a potent force for Him in your community?" (Pg. 5)
- This is an eye-opener, but this is a powerful statement and it is a statement that we need to always have in our hearts, minds, souls, and spirits - **GOD IS NOT DONE WITH THE CHURCH!!!**
- The Lord is not done with the Church, and because the Lord is not done with the Church neither should we! There is never a time that the Church doesn't have influence, and one thing that people have to realize is that the Church is the most talked about institution in the world!
- We talk about so many things in our lives, we talk about the Stock Market, we talk about Shows, we talk about Sports, we talk about Movies, we talk about Weather, we talk about Cars, we talk about stuff

we shouldn't talk about, and we talk about Clothes. Out of all the things that we do talk about, the reason that we talk about these things is because we have interests, we have influence, we have taste, and we have the feeling that we love it.

- Now think about something.... The Church is the most talked about on social media, at the grocery store, on the phone, or just in casual conversations. The important thing about the Church is... Let us make the Church meaningful, and let us make the Church something that people want to come to and don't want to come to!
- The Church has the power that it can do great things, and we give hope to people and the reason we give hope is because when the word of the Lord is shared it will bring hope. Preaching & Teaching brings hope, and the reason that it brings hope is because of who we are talking about. As long as we talk about Jesus we have hope, we have peace, we have assurance, and we have a firm foundation when we talk about Jesus!
- We need to always talk about Jesus, and when we lift up the name of Jesus that will let us know that the Lord is in charge, the Lord is in control, and the Lord is not going to leave us but the Lord will be with us. We can't forget the Lord, but we need to always preach/teach/sing/speak about Jesus, it isn't about us but it is all about Jesus, and since it is about Jesus we need to always make sure our voices are raised with the right name on our mouths!
- When we come to Church, make it about Jesus, and if we are talking about anything that is not Jesus then we don't need to talk. We need to hear Jesus not personal complaints or agendas, but we need to hear Jesus and when we hear Jesus we are inspired, we are encouraged, and we are spiritually full because of us talking about Jesus!
- 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 ESV - Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, [2] and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you-unless you believed in vain. [3] For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our

sins in accordance with the Scriptures, [4] that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

- 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 ESV - And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. [2] For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. [3] And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling. [4] and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, [5] so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.
- 1 Thessalonians 1:4-8 ESV - For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, [5] because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. [6] And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, [7] so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. [8] For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything.
- Colossians 1:28-29 ESV - Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. [29] For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.



Scrappy Church Bible Study Pt. 2 January 14th & January 17th, 2024

Scrappy Churches & Football:

- We became a scrappy team because we had a scrappy leader (Pg. 7)
- The Late Great Businessman Andrew Carnegie said it this way: "No man will make a great leader who wants to do it all himself or get all the credit for doing it."
- The Late Kobe Bryant spoke it this way: "The topic of leadership is a touchy one. A lot of leaders fail because they don't have the bravery to touch that nerve or strike that chord. Throughout my years, I haven't had that fear."
- In becoming a scrappy and stronger Church, it is important for the Church to realize the value of following leadership. A Church can't function Godly, positively, and Biblically without following the Leader, because without leadership a Church has no direction!
- God calls leaders to lead His Churches, because those are the ones that God has given the anointing to. God designs and calls specific people to lead His people, because God knows who the people need in order for them to get to the next level!
- Leaders pray, leaders preach, leaders teach, leaders plan, and leaders seek God in order to lead the Church. When the Lord calls the Leader,

the Leader has a responsibility, call, and charge to God to do what the Lord says, because God will never instruct a leader to do something that God doesn't want done and that God has not approved. Real leaders do God's work, and aren't controlled by people but they are led by the Lord to do what the Lord wants.

- Churches that are strong Churches because they follow God, they know the word, they want the word, and they follow the Leader. A strong leader won't desire for the Church to operate beneath its potential, but a strong leader has a desire, dream, and vision for the Church to be at its best self because God deserves our best!

The Characteristics of the Church:

- Scrappy, Feisty, Tenacious, Determined, Dogged, and Persistent. These Churches have leaders and members who refuse to give up. To the contrary, they have people in the congregation who truly believe the best days of the Church are in the very near future. Sure, they have their frustrations. But they see the power of God working every week in their Church. They are excited about both the present and the future. They don't see limitations; they see God's possibilities. (Pg. 8 - Pg. 9)
- The Church should never have a defeated spirit when we serve a winning God! The Lord has no losses on His record, so the Church should never think that we are lost or without hope not when the Lord is the leader!
- The Church will miss its mark when it is shooting with the wrong bow and arrow! We should be keeping the word of God in our hearts, the word of God in our spirits, the word of God in our homes, and the word of God with us every day.
- As the Church continues to function and live, the Church must also understand the value of being a Church that has motivation! Are you motivated to be a better Church, are you motivated to do new ministry, are you motivated to do new things, and are you motivated to do things that have never been done but can be impactful?
- The Church that loses motivation is dead with no life coming back!

- "Scrappy Churches Follow God's Leader" - Joshua 1:16-18 ESV - And they answered Joshua, "All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. [17] Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you. Only may the LORD your God be with you, as he was with Moses! [18] Whoever rebels against your commandment and disobeys your words, whatever you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and courageous."

- "Scrappy Churches Listen To God's Word" - Galatians 1:6-12 ESV - I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel- [7] not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. [8] But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. [9] As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed. [10] For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ. [11] For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. [12] For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

- "Scrappy Churches Are Innovative" - Matthew 9:14-17 ESV - Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" [15] And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. [16] No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch tears away from the garment, and a worse tear is made. [17] Neither is new wine put into old wineskins. If it is, the skins burst and the wine is spilled and the skins are destroyed. But new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved."

- "Scrapy Churches Don't Quit Being Progressive" - Nehemiah 6:1-4 ESV
- Now when Sanballat and Tobiah and Geshem the Arab and the rest of our enemies heard that I had built the wall and that there was no breach left in it (although up to that time I had not set up the doors in the gates), [2] Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, "Come and let us meet together at Hakkephirim in the plain of Ono." But they intended to do me harm. [3] And I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?" [4] And they sent to me four times in this way, and I answered them in the same manner.

- "Scrapy Churches Seek God" - Psalm 119:129-133 ESV - Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them. [130] The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple. [131] I open my mouth and pant, because I long for your commandments. [132] Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your way with those who love your name. [133] Keep steady my steps according to your promise, and let no iniquity get dominion over me.

Scrapy Churches Are Persistent:

- "The first three years were pretty tough," he said frankly. "I have a lot of emotional scars from those early days. But God would not let the vision we had die. By year four we began to see some real turnaround. Now in my eight year, we are truly a force for the kingdom in our community. We are almost as big as the Church was in the glory days, approaching three hundred in attendance. But our turnaround is more than numbers. It's much more than numbers." (Pg. 10 - Pg. 11)
- One thing about that is very important for a Scrapy Church to understand.... A Church is more than just numbers, and because a Church is more than just numbers we need to be more focused than just worried about the numbers!
- The numbers in a Church don't mean anything if the Spirit in the Church is low! If you are more focused on numbers than Jesus, you have missed

the whole message of Jesus, and if you miss the whole message of Jesus you are lost!

- The Church will make changes when it stays together!!!! Unity is what will keep a Church together, but when the Church doesn't have Unity the Church is writing it's own death certificate! Many Churches die because of lack of Unity, and when Unity has been depleted that means the Church is no longer representing Jesus Christ, but it has become its own idol and the Church is in danger mode!
- Have you caused Unity or Dissension in the Church? Are you guilty of making the Church have problems, issues, and storms?
- **Scrappy Churches refuse to allow negative things to affect the Church and the Ministry! Scrappy Churches have a mission that they want to achieve, and when the work is being done it is not time to play around with Jesus but it is about being serious for Jesus!**
- **Are we serious for Jesus? Have we become really serious for Jesus, or have we become complacent with Jesus? Does Jesus really lead the Church, does Jesus really inspire the Church, and do people in the Church really know who Jesus is?**
- **Scrappy Churches want to see growth! God can grow a Church that has people that aren't satisfied with staying stuck, but that wants to branch out of the comfort zone! God will grow a Church that wants to go to that next atmosphere and spear of worship!**
- **Scrappy Churches have no problem with learning new things! One of the hindrances of Church growth is, when people think that they don't need to learn anything else! If the Church refuses to learn, the Church will not grow because how can you expect to be an effective Church if you refuse to accept what the Lord is doing and teaching?**
- Henry Ford once said this: "Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young."
- Gandhi said it like it this: "Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."

Scrappy Churches Have God:

- "Kent chuckled. "Of course not. There were a lot of defeated people in the Church. There were some who told me outright that the Church probably would not survive. Yeah, the hopeful ones were in the minority, but they were a God powered-minority!" A God-powered minority. You've got to love it." (Pg. 10)
- If God isn't the leader I don't want to be there!
- Any Church that doesn't have the Lord is a dangerous Church that you should never go to!! Any Church that talks more about tradition and man practices, than they do the word of God is a Church that is dangerous, and not biblically or theologically sound!
- God is the head of the Church and not us! The Church that keeps God as the center is a Church that has unlimited possibilities, but the Church that tries to compete with God for attention is a Church that has already tapped out!
- As the Church, everything that the Church does should bring glory to the Lord. Before anything is done, it needs to be bathed in prayer and when the Lord says it then it can be done, but if the Lord didn't say it and if it hasn't been prayed about and God hasn't given it the confirmation then trouble looms!
- Sometimes we make the mistake of putting God's name on things that the Lord never agreed to! If the Lord didn't say it why do it, and because the Lord is in charge God knows what the Church needs, but we have to stop thinking that God needs our help to run His Church! God uses us, but God doesn't have to have us because God was doing fine before we arrived, and He will be doing fine once we leave!
- The Church is able to do so much, the Church can be great, and the Church has the power to be transforming but we must keep the word of the Lord at the center and not change what has made the Church what it is! Don't let your familiarity make you stop keeping God as the center of the Church, and knowing that is the Lord and nobody else that has and will keep the Church going!

- The Church is "God-Created" - Matthew 16:18 ESV - And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
- The Church is "God-Ordained" - Jeremiah 14:13-16 ESV - Then I said: "Ah, Lord GOD, behold, the prophets say to them, 'You shall not see the sword, nor shall you have famine, but I will give you assured peace in this place.'" [14] And the LORD said to me: "The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I did not send them, nor did I command them or speak to them. They are prophesying to you a lying vision, worthless divination, and the deceit of their own minds. [15] Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the prophets who prophesy in my name although I did not send them, and who say, 'Sword and famine shall not come upon this land': By sword and famine those prophets shall be consumed. [16] And the people to whom they prophesy shall be cast out in the streets of Jerusalem, victims of famine and sword, with none to bury them-them, their wives, their sons, and their daughters. For I will pour out their evil upon them.
- The Church is "God's-Character" - 1 John 2:3-6 ESV - And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. [4] Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, [5] but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: [6] whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.



Scrappy Church Bible Study Pt. 3

Scrappy Churches Make Transitions:

The Late Great Theologian C. S. Lewis said this: "The more we let God take us over, the more truly ourselves we become - because He made us. He invented us. He invented all the different people that you and I were intended to be. . .It is when I turn to Christ, when I give up myself to His personality, that I first begin to have a real personality of my own."

The Great Poet Nikki Giovanni says this: "A lot of people resist transition and therefore never allow themselves to enjoy who they are. Embrace the change, no matter what it is; once you do, you can learn about the new world you're in and take advantage of it."

- Life is full of transitions, and because life is full of transitions the Church is no different. A Church that delays embracing transition, is a Church that has made a mission statement that "If it isn't this way then it is no way at all."
- The Lord always operates in transition, but there is something that we all have to understand is that the Lord makes moves that don't always make sense, but they are what the Church needs! God knows what the

Church needs better than we do, and because of that the Lord is always operating in making new moves!

- Transition is not a sin, transition is not dark, and transition is not gloomy! Transition can be a special time and a special season, but there are times that transition brings problems not because the transition itself is bad, but sometimes it is because of the negative spirits that rear their ugly head all because of transition breaking down walls!
- We build walls so that they stay, that they are prominent, and that they are not touched! The builder/architect of the Church is the Lord, and the Lord can tear down what He chooses to, the Lord can do what He wants, and the Lord will change at any time He wants to and He doesn't need our permission!
- The Lord never has to have a meeting in order to do what He wants! The Lord starts moving people, the Lord starts touching stuff, and the Lord starts to change people and once the Lord is at work things don't remain the same. God will change people without there ever being an announcement, but God knows how to fix things and when God does it and how He does it there is no turning back!

Transitions Happen:

- He began to reflect on the excuses. "I couldn't compete with the larger churches. That was my first excuse. Sure, they had more programs to offer than we did. I heard that specifically from members who left. They went where the action was." (Pg. 12)
- "I had excuses both ways. We couldn't reach the lower-income residents at first, then we couldn't reach the higher-income residents. I was making myself the victim of the Goldilocks syndrome. We had no chance unless the income of the residents was just right. The Church is now on a healthy path. Yes, the congregation still has challenges, but the trajectory is really encouraging." (Pg. 12-13)
- "We asked Fred what precipitated the turnaround. "God just woke me up," he responded. "In my prayer time, I began to realize I was leaning on excuses instead of leaning on God. He put my Church at this address

for a reason. He put me here for a reason. I decided to take responsibility for the leadership God gave me. I decided to move beyond excuses. My new attitude was the beginning of the turnaround." Indeed. That was the beginning of the turnaround. (Pg. 13)

- The Church is where the Lord wants it to be, the Church has what it needs, and the Church can do awesome things when the Church realizes what it has in its possession! The Church has ability, the Church has fire, the Church has pizzazz, the Church has people, and the Church has what it needs but if it doesn't utilize it then the Church missed the moment!
- Many times in ministry Churches miss key moments because of laziness, because of excuses, and because of lack of desire! A Church that walks with the wrong shoes will never go anywhere, but a Church that walks with the shoes of faith, the shoes of vision, the shoes of trusting in God, the shoes of stepping out of the boat, and the shoes of letting go of the normal and embracing the new!
- The Church hasn't lost influence because it is still talked about, but has the Church lost its own voice, its own special spirit, and its own mission all because of the wrong words and the wrong thoughts! When we talk about the Church why should people come, when we talk about the Church without any dreams, without any happiness, and without any desire to be motivated, why should people come?
- Do you believe that the Lord can turn the Church around? Do you believe that the Lord will make the Church improve, and do you believe that the Church has what it takes? What are you willing to do, to make the Church explode because just because you talk about the Church means nothing if you aren't willing to put some work in it!
- Too often people want to be so vocal with words but they are silent with their service! God has placed us where He has placed us for a reason, that is something we have to realize that we aren't in the business of outdoing, we aren't in the business of competing, and we aren't in the business of outshining but we are in the business of discipleship, lifting up the name of Jesus, and positive ministry!

- The Lord has given the Church what it needs, the Lord has given the Church power, and the Lord can't give the Church more if the Church isn't taking care of what it has! When the Lord gives the Church open doors what is the Church going to do, the Church is not meant for a small number people to do all of the work, but everybody in the Church is called to do service and do the work of the Lord, because we aren't called to sit down, but we are called to work and not just bypass that!
- "Scrappy Churches Are Serving Churches" - Psalm 100:2 ESV - Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!
- "Scrappy Churches Move Forward" - Deuteronomy 2:1-7 ESV - "Then we turned and journeyed into the wilderness in the direction of the Red Sea, as the LORD told me. And for many days we traveled around Mount Seir. [2] Then the LORD said to me, [3] 'You have been traveling around this mountain country long enough. Turn northward [4] and command the people, "You are about to pass through the territory of your brothers, the people of Esau, who live in Seir; and they will be afraid of you. So be very careful. [5] Do not contend with them, for I will not give you any of their land, no, not so much as for the sole of the foot to tread on, because I have given Mount Seir to Esau as a possession. [6] You shall purchase food from them with money, that you may eat, and you shall also buy water from them with money, that you may drink. [7] For the LORD your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands. He knows your going through this great wilderness. These forty years the LORD your God has been with you. You have lacked nothing.'"
- "Scrappy Churches Aren't Stagnant" - Mark 10:46-52 ESV - And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. [47] And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" [48] And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" [49] And

Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart. Get up; he is calling you." [50] And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. [51] And Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" And the blind man said to him, "Rabbi, let me recover my sight." [52] And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

- "Scrappy Churches Aren't Passive" - Matthew 25:14-23 ESV - "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. [15] To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. [16] He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. [17] So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. [18] But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. [19] Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. [20] And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' [21] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' [22] And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' [23] His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'
- "Scrappy Churches Seek God's Vision" - Psalm 128:1-2 ESV - Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways! [2] You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you.

Transitions Aren't Easy.... But Are Important:

- "Leading a Church would be a lot easier if we didn't have to deal with people. Dealing with people is a messy business. Church members can be critics. Church members can be bullies. Church members can be undependable. Church members can be fickle." (Pg. 13)
- "It doesn't take too many difficult church members to make our ministry really messy. When I realized God gave our church the members we had for a reason, he said "it changes my perspective. I started asking them to tell me their stories. I asked them about their dreams for the church. I would then ask them how we could work together to reach God-given dreams for our church." (Pg. 14)
- People in Church can be mean, people in Church can be despicable, people in Church can be upsetting, and people in Church can be difficult. People in Church have personalities, people in Church have various thoughts, and people in Church have different tones but the thing that we have to realize is this - "Just because you may not like something, doesn't mean that you have to be the catalyst for the Church to fall apart."
- There are people who at times do their best to kill the Church, and we can kill the Church with the way we speak, we can kill the Church with the way we act, and we can kill the Church by rallying the wrong crowds around us. We all want the best for the Church, but if I want the best for the Church then I have to be willing to be open, to work with everybody, and understand the value and importance of allowing the Lord to give us all fresh bread!
- The Church can't move forward sometimes, because there are people who don't want fresh bread but they would rather stay with stale bread and molded bread. We have some molded bread Christians, who are very keen on causing the rest of the Church to be sick instead of the Church being healthy!
- The Church can't be healthy if we eat the wrong cooks food! God has given the Church the food that it needs, and God is the Master Chef it is not us, but it is the Lord, and because the Lord is the Master Chef

the Lord gives the Church the food to last, the food to make it productive, the food to continue to go higher, the food to embrace positive change, and the food to be impactful in the whole atmosphere! The Lord gives the Church its marching orders, but if the Church doesn't follow God's command it is always going to be open for the enemy's gunfire.

- There are kinds of people that show up to Church, and there are imperfect people and even though we know they are imperfect people that doesn't mean that the Lord can't change them. We have difficult people to show up to Church, and guess what... It starts with YOU!!!!
- You are difficult just like everybody else, but the key of anything is that we are recipients of the grace of God that will keep us, and because we are the recipients of the grace of God we should extend that grace to others! That is something that is what we should never forget, is that we all are the products of the grace of God, and since we are the products of God we should have patience with everybody!
- The other side is that people have to realize that when you are mean, when you are cold, when you are divisive it hurts the Church, it can hurt the spirit, and it will make people not want to come! Have we pushed people away, have we been difficult, and have we become the types of people that we don't always like to be around?
- Sometimes we can become the people that we despise by our attitudes, by our actions, by our tone, and by our temperament! The Church needs people, and that doesn't mean it will always be easy people but even though there are not always easy people that doesn't mean that they don't have any value!
- We all have value and we all bring something to the table, and because we all have something to bring to the table that means that God can use us all. God will use us all, but we also have to ask ourselves..... "Is My Attitude Pleasing the Lord?"
- We need to always ask that, and we need to make sure that we back up what we say! If we talk about God being a loving God, than we need to follow what we know about God by showing love to everybody!

- "Scrappy Churches Don't Entertain Divisiveness" - 1 Corinthians 1:10-13 ESV - I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. [11] For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. [12] What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." [13] Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?
- "Scrappy Churches Are Christian Examples" - Romans 12:1-2 ESV - I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. [2] Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
- "Scrappy Churches Build Together" 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 ESV - For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. [13] For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-Jews or Greeks, slaves or free-and all were made to drink of one Spirit. [14] For the body does not consist of one member but of many. [15] If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. [16] And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. [17] If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? [18] But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. [19] If all were a single member, where would the body be? [20] As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. [21] The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." [22] On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be

weaker are indispensable, [23] and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unrepresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, [24] which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, [25] that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. [26] If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

- "Scrappy Churches Are Loving Churches" - 1 John 4:7-12 ESV - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. [8] Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. [9] In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. [10] In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. [11] Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. [12] No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.
- "Scrappy Churches Encourage One Another" - 1 Thessalonians 2:8-12 ESV - So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us. [9] For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. [10] You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. [11] For you know how, like a father with his children, [12] we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.
- "Scrappy Churches Are Not Selfish" - Philippians 2:1-5 ESV - So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, [2] complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full

accord and of one mind. [3] Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. [4] Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. [5] Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.

Scrappy Churches Dream:

- "God gave me a new heart for our members. They were no longer my obstacles. They were a part of the dream for the church. Our church really began to dream again" (Pg. 15)
- Harriet Tubman said it this way: "Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."
- The Late Actor Christopher Reeve once said this: "So many of our dreams at first seem impossible, then they seem improbable, and then, when we summon the will, they soon become inevitable."
- Author John C. Maxwell said it like this: "A great leader's courage to fulfill his vision comes from passion, not position."
- Churches should always dream, we should dream because when we dream that is when we will continue to work for better, but when a Church stops dreaming, the Church stops growing, progressing, and working! The Church has to keep on dreaming, and when the Church has dreams it makes us all want to see it come to fruition!
- Vision makes us have dreams, vision makes us push through the challenges, and vision makes us want to continue to go forward because with vision we live but without vision we die! When you think about the Church, do you have dreams for the Church, and your dreams ought to help the Pastor in his vision to see the Church do great things!
- When the Pastor dreams the rest of the Church ought to dream, don't talk about trusting in God but you are a dream-killer at the same time! You should dream like the rest of us, and every day should be a day that we pray to the Lord, and that we talk to the Lord about us reaching for our dreams, following our dreams, and capitalizing our

dreams, because we know and we believe that the Lord will keep us, the Lord will guide us, and the Lord will allow us to have the strength and the peace to be able rise high, go high, and do great things all because we have kept on dreaming!

- Church we have to dream, and because we dream there are no limits to us and there are no limits to anybody wanting more and more! The Church can and should talk high, speak high, and live high because we serve a mighty good God, and since we serve a mighty God we can do great and mighty good things!
- "Scrappy Churches Want Great Things" - Psalm 127:1-2 ESV - Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. [2] It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.
- "Scrappy Churches Pray For Great Things" - Philippians 1:3-6 ESV - I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, [4] always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, [5] because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. [6] And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.
- "Scrappy Churches Want More" - Luke 13:10-13 ESV - Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. [11] And behold, there was a woman who had had a disabling spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. [12] When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your disability." [13] And he laid his hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and she glorified God.
- "Scrappy Churches Follow God's Word" - Deuteronomy 6:1-7 ESV - "Now this is the commandment-the statutes and the rules-that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, [2] that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son's son, by

keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. [3] Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey. [4] "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. [5] You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. [6] And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. [7] You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.



Scrappy Church Bible Study Pt. 4

Scrappy Churches Operating In Overflow:

- Your church has everything it needs. Really. Let me put it another way. God has given your church all the resources you need to move forward. You have enough money, you have enough people, you have adequate facilities, you have enough people to reach, and you have the right aged people in your church. (Pg. 15)
- It does you absolutely no good to complain that you don't have sufficient resources. It does you no good to imagine how much easier or better your church would be if you just had something else. A mind-set of limitations creates a limitation on your leadership. (Pg. 15)
- Your church has everything God says you need to move forward. You have everything you need to lead forward. Be a leader who truly believes in God's abundance rather than your perceived limitations. (pg. 16)
- A Church that looks at what it doesn't have, but doesn't appreciate what you have and thinks that the Church that we have can't do more is a Church that has nothing to offer!
- How can you believe in God and don't believe in miracles? The Church has the things it needs, but a Church can lose the momentum, a Church

can lose its fire, and a Church can lose everything that it has worked hard to build and have when it has an attitude that we can't do it, and we aren't equipped to do it!

- Who told the Church that they couldn't do it... because that language doesn't come from the Lord. The Lord never operates in a quitters mentality, the Lord never operates in a defeated mentality, and the Lord never operates in a restricted space!
- The Church has to stop living off of the old demons mentality and the old demons words, that told the Church that "we can't do it" or "that I don't see that happening here", when has the Lord ever spoken that type of language in His Church? How can we operate in victory, or how can we really be a Church that lives for the Lord but we don't even have a desire for improvements!
- Has the Church made itself miss great chances, great possibilities, and great blessings because of speaking with a negative tone, negative voice, and not being positive! The thing about any Church is... The Church is responsible for either killing the leader or keeping the leader alive!
- A Church that is determined to keep the leader shackled and handcuffed, is a Church that has said we want somebody to occupy a seat but we don't want the leader to do anything in the seat! When the leader loses their fire and dreams for the Church, the leader and the Church suffer together because there is no desire for more, there is no desire for growth, and there is no desire for work!
- The leader is birthed by God to lead the people, and the leader sees things that the people don't see and the leader makes moves, that the people don't see and may not understand at the time, but when you let the move marinate and you see the Lord at the head of it, God will always reveal why the move was necessary!
- The Church itself has the opportunity to follow vision, and the Church has the opportunity itself to participate and grow in the vision if it desires, but the Church can't look down on itself, the Church can't have bad feelings, and the Church can't think that is going to be okay coasting and not trying to move forward!

- The Church has what it needs, but when the Church is stingy and when the Church is selfish with its resources, its service, and its own character the Church won't go forward! God will never bless a selfish Church, and anytime a Church is selfish the Lord won't bless that Church, and the Lord won't use that Church because the Lord can't bless what isn't trying to be fruitful!
- How can the Church improve, how can the Church go forward, and how can the Church make sure that it doesn't lose its significance. It starts with all of us, and because we are followers of Jesus Christ, and because we are servants of Christ every servant of the Lord should make it up in their mind that they have faith in God, and they have faith that the Lord can and will do some great things!
- The Church will never lose with the right strategy, and when the Church starts with the word of God and when the Church continues to do what the word of God is saying the Church won't lose, the Church won't falter, and the Church won't have to worry about making this, fixing this, solving this, or doing this because when we put into practice what we actually believe the Church won't lose!
- The Church has to always put into practice what it believes, and when the Church believes in the Lord and follows the Lord it makes it clear that the Lord is first, the Lord is real, the Lord is alive, and the Lord will give us what we need. The Lord will do it, but we have to have a changed mindset, we have to have determination, we have to have will, and we have to have the right work ethic and when we have the right work ethic God will take the Church to heights that the Church has never experienced before!
- "Scrappy Churches Work" - Nehemiah 4:6 ESV - So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.
- "Scrappy Churches Are Not Complacent" - 1 Kings 6:11-19 ESV - Now the word of the LORD came to Solomon, [12] "Concerning this house that you are building, if you will walk in my statutes and obey my rules

and keep all my commandments and walk in them, then I will establish my word with you, which I spoke to David your father. [13] And I will dwell among the children of Israel and will not forsake my people Israel." [14] So Solomon built the house and finished it. [15] He lined the walls of the house on the inside with boards of cedar. From the floor of the house to the walls of the ceiling, he covered them on the inside with wood, and he covered the floor of the house with boards of cypress. [16] He built twenty cubits of the rear of the house with boards of cedar from the floor to the walls, and he built this within as an inner sanctuary, as the Most Holy Place. [17] The house, that is, the nave in front of the inner sanctuary, was forty cubits long. [18] The cedar within the house was carved in the form of gourds and open flowers. All was cedar; no stone was seen. [19] The inner sanctuary he prepared in the innermost part of the house, to set there the ark of the covenant of the LORD.

- "Scrappy Churches Have An Anointed Leader" - 1 Samuel 16:7-13 ESV - But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." [8] Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." [9] Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." [10] And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these." [11] Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here." [12] And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." [13] Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

- "Scrappy Churches Want Success" - Deuteronomy 4:1-6 ESV - "And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the rules that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. [2] You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you. [3] Your eyes have seen what the LORD did at Baal-peor, for the LORD your God destroyed from among you all the men who followed the Baal of Peor. [4] But you who held fast to the LORD your God are all alive today. [5] See, I have taught you statutes and rules, as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should do them in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. [6] Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'

"Scrappy Churches Make A Turn"

- "I entered vocational ministry with some naivete," Marcus told us, "but I had a lot of joy. I was really excited about serving God's church. I don't know exactly when I started surrendering my joy to life's circumstances, but I know it happened. I let the underbelly of Church life bring me down. I focused on the negatives more often than not. My whole perspective and attitude stunk!" (Pg. 16)
- Have you ever felt a bad injury in your life? You can have a bad injury life, or a bad gash on your body that makes you bleed and if you bleed too much. When you bleed you can feel that blood oozing out of the body, and when you bleed you realize and see that pain is real, pain is apart of the process, pain is real, and pain is something that we can't avoid but it does come!
- Any leader that God uses has to be used by God in the painful crux and crucibles of ministry! When God uses a leader, you don't just see the

anointing on that leader but you also have to realize and understand that there is blood on that leader and the blood on the leader is not something that will go away but it is what the Lord chooses and desires to use to see if the leader is really going to stand still!

- A leader that will be used by God has to believe what the Bible says, because when the Bible is real and true a leader has to make sure that they never waver from the commitment that the Lord has! However, you will never see a leader used that God can't trust, but you do have to realize and you have to understand that when you see your leader being used by the Lord, be glad because even in their hurts, struggles, and wounds God will still give the leader power!
- It is said 1,700 Pastors leave the ministry every month.
- 46% percent of Pastors under the age of 45 are considering quitting the ministry. 34% of Pastors over the age of 45 are considering quitting the ministry. Reason: Conflict, schedule, stress, and lack of support from church members.
- 80% believe pastoral ministry has negatively affected their families. Many pastor's children do not attend church now because of what the church has done to their parents.
- 65% of pastors feel their family lives in a "glass house" and fear they are not good enough to meet expectations.
- 23% of pastors report being distant to their family.
- 57% of pastors feel fulfilled but yet discouraged, stressed, and fatigued.
- 80% of pastors expect conflict within their church.
- 35% of pastors battle depression or fear of inadequacy.
- 26% of pastors report being over fatigued.
- It is important to pray for your Pastor/Leader, because Ministry is a blessing but Ministry also has disadvantages because Ministry can be hectic, Ministry can be trying, and Ministry can sometimes test you!
- Praying for your Pastor is essential, it is important, it is wonderful, it is needed, and it is majestic. When you pray for your Pastor, and when you pray for your Pastor you are covering for your Pastor, you are

lifting up your Pastor, you are encouraging your Pastor, and you are telling the devil you won't defeat my Pastor! This is why we all need to pray for the Pastor, the Pastor needs covering, the Pastor needs love, the Pastor needs to feel wanted, and the Pastor needs to feel the warmth!

- There are more Pastors now, that are serving God in a fog of spiritual warfare and spiritual unresolve because there are dark clouds, there are dark periods, and there are dark moments all around but when the Church is praying for the Pastor, and when the Pastor is praying that will help the Church, that will let the Pastor know that God is there!
- That is the truth, that is the reality, and that is understandable because we have faith in God, we have hope in God, and we know that the Lord is real and the Lord is not going to abandon us! That is how we make it because we know that the Lord won't leave us and the Lord won't abandon us, but we also realize and we know that times do get dusty, times get messy, and times get dark but in that God will still take care of His leader.
- "It hit me like a ton of bricks," Marcus exclaimed. "I was dwelling on the wrong things. I was focusing on the negatives rather than what God wants me to dwell on. That was a major attitude shift on me. It was amazing to watch the church follow my lead with a similar joyful attitude." (Pg. 16)
- In leadership the Leader has to make sure that positive thoughts continue to be a part of the life of the Leader. The thing that can bring down any leader, or even stress out any leader is the fact that when the leader focuses more on the negative than the positive it will make the leader have a bad outlook that can be disturbing, that can be damaging, and that can be lifeless.
- Leadership comes with many different levels, because there will be good days and there will be bad days as we look at leadership. Leaders have to deal with both, but what can keep a leader more than anything is knowing that the Lord is there, and the presence of the Lord is the best presence, it is the best medicine, and it is the best comfort that

indeed lives and exist, because leaders have to make sure that they stand on what they preach, what they teach, and what they know about the Lord!

- Leaders are always under the microscope, and leaders are always being looked at for being an example. It is good to know that leaders can also sometimes have a bad day, bad moment, and not just that but that leaders do guard themselves, but leaders also know that not everybody is bad and not everybody is mean God will always surround the leader with the right people at the right time, and will surround people with the right leader so that the Church knows how to move forward!
- "Scrappy Churches Have God-Sent Pastors" - Jeremiah 3:15 ESV - "And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.
- "Scrappy Churches Want Preaching" - Nehemiah 8:1-8 ESV - And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel. [2] So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. [3] And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. [4] And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand, and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand. [5] And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. [6] And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. [7] Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin,

Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, helped the people to understand the Law, while the people remained in their places. [8] They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

- "Scrappy Churches Pray For Their Pastor" - Acts 12:1-8 ESV - About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. [2] He killed James the brother of John with the sword, [3] and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. [4] And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. [5] So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church. [6] Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. [7] And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. [8] And the angel said to him, "Dress yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me."
- "Scrappy Churches Have Godly Leaders" - Jeremiah 1:4-12 ESV - Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, [5] "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." [6] Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." [7] But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. [8] Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD." [9] Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, "Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. [10] See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to

overthrow, to build and to plant." [11] And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Jeremiah, what do you see?" And I said, "I see an almond branch." [12] Then the LORD said to me, "You have seen well, for I am watching over my word to perform it."

"Scrappy Churches Make Transitions"

- "That was a major attitude shift for me." It seems like many of the scrappy churches had leaders who decided they would be scrappy in God's power" (Pg. 17)
- Whatever the Lord says is what WILL BE DONE!!! When the Lord says do it, and because the Lord says it that is what will be done, and as long as the Lord says it that is when the Lord is pleased, and any dedicated leader will always want to please the Lord more than pleasing anybody else!
- When the Lord is pleased, and because the Lord is pleased the Church will be blessed, the Church will go to newer dimensions, and the Church will not want to just stay the same, the Church should want more property, the Church should want to own rental property, the Church should want to be better in all aspects!
- A determined leader will desire a determined Church! A determined leader will never stop, no matter the fiery darts there will always be that determination in that leader to keep pushing, to keep pushing the envelope, and to keep pushing to reach the stars!
- When the Church wants a determined leader, they will help push the leader to even greater doors and possibilities! The Church ought to want to see their leader never lose that spunk, never lose that fire, never lose that optimism, and never lose that willingness to keep going! You have to always keep going, no matter what it looks like, and no matter how it feels you still have to keep going.
- Abraham Lincoln said this: "Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it."

- The Late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said it like this: "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."
- The Great NBA Head Coach Pat Riley spoke it this way: "To have long-term success as a coach or in any position of leadership, you have to be obsessed in some way."
- "Scrappy Churches Look Like God" - 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 ESV - Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. [24] He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.
- "Scrappy Churches Want To Be Healthy" - 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5 ESV - Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you, [2] and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men. For not all have faith. [3] But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. [4] And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things that we command. [5] May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.
- "Scrappy Churches Represent Jesus" - James 1:22-27 ESV - But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. [23] For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. [24] For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. [25] But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. [26] If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. [27] Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

- "Scrappy Churches Have God" - Proverbs 19:20-23 ESV - Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future. [21] Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand. [22] What is desired in a man is steadfast love, and a poor man is better than a liar. [23] The fear of the LORD leads to life, and whoever has it rests satisfied; he will not be visited by harm.



Scrappy Church Bible Study Pt. 5

Scrappy Churches Don't Operate In Fear:

- "My name is Roger, and I was a coward." Roger smiled as he recited those words to us. He was remembering how he had become frozen with fear as pastor of the church. The scenario occurred four years earlier as Roger celebrated his fifty-fifth birthday." (Pg. 17)
- "No, I didn't celebrate my birthday at all," he confessed. "I had heard from too many of my peers that another church would never consider me after I turned fifty-five. I felt stuck. Even worse, I began to live in fear. Roger was in his second year at the church when he turned fifty-five. The church was in a slight but almost imperceptible decline. The members were mostly happy. And that became his de facto strategy: keep the members mostly happy and don't rock the boat." (Pg. 17)
- The Late Great Kobe Bryant said this: "If you are going to be a leader, you're not going to please everybody. You gotta hold people accountable, even if you have that moment of being uncomfortable."
- Leadership is about leading people, and leadership is also about not being afraid to lead people but also not being afraid to stand up to people. A leader has to never lose sight of the fact that God called them, and

when the leader is called by the Lord the leader has a responsibility, the leader has an obligation, and the leader has the mandate to make sure that the people are being held accountable!

- One of the things in the Church is that people don't always want to be held accountable, but the danger of not being held accountable is that then anything will go on, or there will be things that won't always be done in the spirit of excellence!
- If we are doing the work of the Lord, and if we are following the Lord, why should we do anything with the wrong spirit or not wanting to do it with excellence! The God that we serve deserves our best, and because the Lord deserves our best then why should we not give the Lord our best, and why shouldn't we want the Lord to have our best!
- Just like the members want to hold the Pastor accountable, the Pastor has to hold the people accountable! You can't have it your way, you can't have it the way you want, and you can't try to be the one that is making standards or making demands that you aren't living up to!
- The Pastor/Leader is the one that has a heart for the Lord, heart for the people, and heart for the building! The Leader has that heart to make sure that the people aren't slacking, that the people aren't slushy, and that the people aren't going in the wrong direction! The Leader has that heart for the people, and when the leader has that heart for the people average doesn't taste well!
- Leaders have that kind of function, because when we think about leaders and think about the Church, shouldn't the Church want to be a Church that gives its best effort! Not just in service, in building maintenance, in evangelism, in taking care of the Church there is a reason why the leader brings this to the people, because the people can bring things to the Pastor but what are they willing to do?
- You have to look at that, and one thing about leadership is that the leader should always hold themselves accountable. Leaders hold themselves accountable to even a higher standard than what they hold to the people, and that is not a knock but that is something that is powerful, that is needed, and that is robust.

- Leaders can't be like that, but leaders have to always make sure that they are doing the work of the Lord and that leaders need to know that at the end of the day everything that you do will be held accountable! Leaders have to stand on the mountain, even when there are people who are trying to pull them off and make them hurt but leaders have to make sure that they are still standing firm!
- Leaders have to have positive thoughts! Leaders have to deal with the cycle of loneliness, and you see that in leaders that leaders deal with so many thoughts, so many fears, and are puzzled on numerous things because of making sure they are doing what is right! Leaders think about that constantly, and the thoughts ring in a leader of whether or not they are doing enough, is it good, what's the next move, and making sure that the momentum doesn't leave!
- Leaders wrestle with these thoughts, leaders wrestle with insecurity, leaders wrestle with darkness, leaders wrestle with mental health, leaders wrestle with being tired, and leaders wrestle with their own calling. Leaders know that they are called by the Lord, and because of that they are always desiring to do what is best for God and everybody!
- A successful Church focuses on every group and not just one group! When a Church just focuses on one group, the minute that group is gone is when the Church erodes because when the other groups were neglected then there was nowhere else to go! Leaders focus on every group, and leaders desire to plan and organize things for every group so that everybody can have something, and feel important!
- **If you were the leader how would you incorporate people?** In leading people there are more than just one factor to consider, people are bringing their hurts, their demons, their trauma, their pains, their disappointments, their failures, their imbalances, their heartbreaks, their problems, their family issues, their health issues, and their other demons that they live with!
- Leaders in leading people are leading more than the physical person, but there is an emotional side to leading people, there is that side of leading people as well because people do have options! People have other

options when you look at life, and when you look at what is going on around our lives people have options like sports, brunch, movies, vacations, and other options and when the Church has fear, when the Church isn't progressive, and when the Church continues to not want to be open to new things the Church is a dead battery with nothing to recharge it!

- Leaders think about not just what is here, but what could be here, what isn't here, what could not come back, what could come, and how can the leader by the leading, guiding, and open door of God how it can be amazing, how can it grow, and how can it not die? Leaders think about all of these factors, and in being a leader you don't ever rest and you are always thinking about what's next!
- Leaders have to have that type of belief, and the thing with any leader... You can't be an influential leader if you are lying to yourself and lying to the people! If you don't believe it can change why would you tell that to people, but a real leader believes that it will be better, a real leader believes that God can and will do great things and they don't stop telling the people that as well!
- If you want a leader to be excited then you get excited, if you want the leader to be enthused then you be enthused, if you want the leader to be dedicated be dedicated with the leader, and make sure that you follow the leader! Follow the leader, go with the leader, and understand where the Lord has the blessings and the anointing on the leader and it is important to make sure that the leader is going forward!
- "Scrappy Churches Have An Inspired Leader": Numbers 11:21-25 ESV - But Moses said, "The people among whom I am number six hundred thousand on foot, and you have said, 'I will give them meat, that they may eat a whole month!' [22] Shall flocks and herds be slaughtered for them, and be enough for them? Or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, and be enough for them?" [23] And the LORD said to Moses, "Is the LORD's hand shortened? Now you shall see whether my word will come true for you or not." [24] So Moses went out

and told the people the words of the LORD. And he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tent. [25] Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it.

- "Scrappy Churches Don't Have A Scared Mentality" : Numbers 13:27-33 ESV - And they told him, "We came to the land to which you sent us. It flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. [28] However, the people who dwell in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large. And besides, we saw the descendants of Anak there. [29] The Amalekites dwell in the land of the Negeb. The Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the hill country. And the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and along the Jordan." [30] But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, "Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it." [31] Then the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are." [32] So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, "The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height. [33] And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them."
- "Scrappy Churches Have Positive Thoughts": Proverbs 21:1-5 ESV - The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will. [2] Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the heart. [3] To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice. [4] Haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, are sin. [5] The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.

- "Scrappy Churches Have A Godly Leader": Joshua 1:6-9 ESV - Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. [7] Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. [8] This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. [9] Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."
- "Scrappy Churches Don't Leave The Leader Hanging": Joshua 1:10-11,16-18 ESV - And Joshua commanded the officers of the people, [11] "Pass through the midst of the camp and command the people, 'Prepare your provisions, for within three days you are to pass over this Jordan to go in to take possession of the land that the LORD your God is giving you to possess.'" [16] And they answered Joshua, "All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. [17] Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you. Only may the LORD your God be with you, as he was with Moses! [18] Whoever rebels against your commandment and disobeys your words, whatever you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and courageous."

Scrappy Churches Lead With God's Word:

- "The Church continues its slow decline under his leadership, or perhaps more accurately, lack of leadership. He realized there was no such thing as status quo though. The Church has to let go of a long-time staff member because the budget could no longer support him. Roger retreated into a greater depth of fear" (Pg. 17)

- "When we spoke to Roger, however, the church was on a healthy trajectory. It had turned a corner. Roger was leading from God-given confidence instead of human-centered fear. Peg held back no punches, Roger recalled. She told me she would rather us lose our job than lose our vision. And she read the Bible to me. I remember the words of Joshua 1:9 even now: "Haven't I commanded you: be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (Pg. 18)
- "Roger paused, then resumed. "Peg told me I was living in fear and disobeying God because I was not trusting God. I was more concerned about a paycheck than obedience. My security was my job not my God. I began to lead again from a posture of faith and courage instead of fear. I will turn sixty on my birthday, and I am more excited than ever to see what God will do next." (Pg. 18)
- Real leaders not only recognize that they can't please everybody, they stop trying because when you try to please people you will wear yourself out, stress yourself out, and will cause yourself to lose the main goal which is to please the Lord.
- That is what it is about is pleasing the Lord, and when you please the Lord and when you follow the Lord as a leader you know that the Lord is your leader, the Lord is your CEO, and the Lord is the one that knows how to take care of you as the leader. The Lord is the one that will take care of you, and when the leader does what God says the leader is in the right hands and the majority.
- Real leaders aren't worried about the paycheck, of course we should be taken care of but the tragedy is when the paycheck and people's attitudes start to be more important than the Lord's approval. People can and are fickle, but the Lord has never changed on you, and the leader has nothing to be scared of when they believe the word, when they believe in the Lord, and when they follow the Lord, God will always bless the leader.

- When you know that God has your back you know you can stand, you can do the work, you can follow the Lord, and you also understand and realize that the people may turn on you or even get rid of you, but guess what the Lord will always take care of His servant, and the Lord always has a place for His servant!
- Leaders have the mandate to do what the Lord says and not what people say, because when the people want a preacher but not a pastor they really don't want a Pastor! Leaders are called by the Lord, leaders are called by the Lord, and the Lord is the one that we are ultimately called to please, we are called to serve people but we are called to please the Lord!
- That is what makes a successful ministry, a successful pastorate, and a successful Church is when the leader is doing what the Lord says! The Church should want the Pastor to do what the Lord says, because when the Pastor is doing what the Lord says the Church will never lose its faith, the Church will never lose its spunk, the Church will never lose its importance, and the Church will never lose its respect!
- The Leader obeys the Lord, and when the Church has a strong leader the leader has God at first! The Church that has a leader that is firm, that is real, and that is stable because a real leader won't go away from the word, a real leader will stay with the word, and a real leader will feed the people when they want to eat, and when they don't want to eat!
- The Bible is the centerpiece of the Church, and when the Bible is first in the Church the Church will be spiritually healthy and if the Church is spiritually healthy, the Church is spiritually mature, and the Church is spiritually nourished! When you think about your life and your walk with the Lord, how much of the Bible are you in but how much of the word is in you?
- You become what you spend time with, you become what you dedicate yourself to, and you become what you love and what you desire! When you think about the word of God, how much of the

word of God are you in on a daily basis, how much word do you have in your heart, in your spirit, in your walk, and in your life how much does the word of God live in your life?

- The word of God will keep us, the word of God is our source for righteous living, the word of God is our food to keep us strengthened for the journey! We need the word of God, and when the word of God is in our lives it becomes a part of us, it becomes our shield, it becomes our lifestyle, it becomes what we are, and the word of God will push us to be better!
- The word of God will push you closer to God, the word of God will push you away from things that are not Godly, the word of God will not fail you, the word of God will not lead you astray, and the word of God will not let you lose. The Church has to always want the word of God, and the Church has to always be an open picture wanting the word of the Lord to always fill you with what you need to survive!
- Do you want the word of the Lord? The Leader that God appoints has to live the word, follow the word, and give them the word!!! You have to give the word, and when you give the word of the Lord to the people and give the word completely and truthfully there's nothing that a people can do but grow!
- The word of God is that real, the word of God is that precious, and the word of God is that impactful when we apply the word! It is more than just reading the word of God, it is studying and applying the word of God to your life, because there is no point of reading the word of God and being in the word of God if you are not applying the word of God to your life!
- When you apply the word of God you desire to make the changes in your life, and you allow the word of the Lord to saturate with the presence of the Holy Spirit, and when you are saturated with the Holy Spirit the Lord convicts us all, and the Lord will always make the shifts in our lives because we all need those shifts in our lives in order to be stronger!

- The Lord knows how to shift us, and the Lord will shift the Church as well because when the Church starts to shift the personality changes, the mindset changes, the laborers change, the work changes, and the service changes because when the Lord shifts us we shouldn't want to remain the same but we should want to improve and do more!
- The Lord will make us change whether we want to or not, and the Lord knows how to get you and the Lord knows how to change you and will change you! God will change you, God will build you, and God will change your character and change how you are because the Lord will not allow you to stay unrighteous, the Lord will not let you stay messy, and the Lord will always clean you up because of His word!
- When you get the word of God in you, and when the word of God is preached and taught, the Church has no option and the people have no option but to improve because the Lord won't let it return void! The word of God will never return to void, the word of God will never leave you empty-handed, the word of God will not let us miss God when we don't want to, and the word of the Lord will always make us stand still and firm!
- Dr Tony Evans said this: "Anything you can do that connects believers with one another engages the church to go the next level, which keeps the pastor from being burnt out, which therefore keeps him in the ministry."
- The Late Great Theologian Eugene Peterson said this: "The most important thing a pastor does is stand in a pulpit every Sunday and say, 'Let us worship God.' If that ceases to be the primary thing I do in terms of my energy, my imagination, and the way I structure my life, then I no longer function as a pastor."
- Pastor Mark Batterson says this: "Part of my driving desire as a pastor is to remove every obstacle except the cross that would keep people from coming to faith in Christ."

- "Scrappy Churches Take Care Of The Pastor": 1 Corinthians 9:8-17
ESV - Do I say these things on human authority? Does not the Law say the same? [9] For it is written in the Law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? [10] Does he not certainly speak for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop. [11] If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? [12] If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ. [13] Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? [14] In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel. [15] But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting. [16] For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! [17] For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship.
- "Scrappy Churches Appreciate The Pastor": 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13
ESV - We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, [13] and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.
- "Scrappy Churches Need The Word": Psalm 119:54-60 ESV - Your statutes have been my songs in the house of my sojourning. [55] I remember your name in the night, O LORD, and keep your law. [56] This blessing has fallen to me, that I have kept your precepts. [57] The LORD is my portion; I promise to keep your words. [58] I entreat your favor with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise.

[59] When I think on my ways, I turn my feet to your testimonies; [60] I hasten and do not delay to keep your commandments.

- "Scrappy Churches Want Jesus": Colossians 2:8-15 ESV - See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. [9] For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, [10] and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. [11] In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, [12] having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. [13] And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, [14] by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. [15] He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.
- "Scrappy Churches Want To Improve": 2 Kings 22:3-7 ESV - In the eighteenth year of King Josiah, the king sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, son of Meshullam, the secretary, to the house of the LORD, saying, [4] "Go up to Hilkiah the high priest, that he may count the money that has been brought into the house of the LORD, which the keepers of the threshold have collected from the people. [5] And let it be given into the hand of the workmen who have the oversight of the house of the LORD, and let them give it to the workmen who are at the house of the LORD, repairing the house [6] (that is, to the carpenters, and to the builders, and to the masons), and let them use it for buying timber and quarried stone to repair the house. [7] But no accounting shall be asked from them for the money that is delivered into their hand, for they deal honestly."