



Small Group Guide: The Threshold Covenant (Part 2)

Overview

This guide is based on a sermon exploring the threshold covenant and what it means to move beyond knowing the resurrection as a historical fact into experiencing its power as a present-day reality. The central invitation of the sermon is to enter into genuine relationship with Christ at the threshold -- the cross -- where the vertical and horizontal meet, and to overcome the distractions that pull us away from that relationship.

Key Takeaways

1. The cross is a threshold. The cross is not only a historical event to affirm in a creed. It is the meeting point of heaven and earth, and we are invited to enter through it into living covenant relationship with God.
2. Contemplation moves truth from the head to the heart. Gazing on and meditating on the realities of the resurrection is how covenant blessings become lived experience rather than doctrinal statements.
3. Overcoming is about relationship, not outcome. In Revelation 3:20-21, Jesus calls the Laodicean church to overcome its trust in wealth, self-sufficiency, and earthly wisdom. The reward for overcoming is not material blessing -- it is deeper intimacy and shared authority with Christ.

4. The threshold establishes sacred boundaries. Just as the blood on the doorposts in Exodus 12 marked a household as protected and belonging to God, believers carry a sanctifying presence that marks the spaces and relationships around them as sacred ground.

5. Covenant is not activated by quantity or spiritual fervor. God does not move because enough people have gathered or prayed hard enough. He moves in response to relationship and faith rooted in covenant identity.

Discussion Questions

Opening (Choose one to get the conversation started)

- When you think of the word "threshold," what comes to mind? Has a doorway or transition point ever marked a significant moment in your life?
- Have you ever recited a creed or statement of faith and wondered how to make it feel real rather than routine? What did that tension feel like?

Going Deeper

1. The pastor described contemplation as gazing and thinking deeply about the resurrection until it becomes a present reality rather than just a past event. What does your current practice of contemplation or meditation on Scripture look like? What makes it feel alive, and what makes it feel like going through the motions?
2. The Laodicean church in Revelation 3 was not struggling with obvious moral failure -- they were struggling with self-sufficiency. In what areas of your own life are you most tempted to trust your own resources, wisdom, or reputation rather than resting in covenant relationship with God?
3. The pastor shared a personal story about moving to Sandusky, Ohio, where he and his wife sensed God's direction but faced six months of extreme hardship. He said the question God was really asking was not about the outcome but about trust. Has there been a season in your life when what God was doing underneath the surface was different from what you expected on the surface? What did you learn about God and about yourself in that season?

4. The sermon draws a distinction between focusing on covenant blessings and focusing on the covenant relationship itself. Why do you think it is easier to want what God gives than to want God himself? How does that tendency show up in your prayer life or in how you read Scripture?
 5. The pastor challenged the idea that God moves only when a certain number of people pray with enough fervor, pointing to Abraham as one person whose relationship with God shaped history. How does this reframe the way you think about your own prayers and your own influence? Does it feel freeing or does it raise questions for you?
 6. The sermon describes the believer as someone who sanctifies a household simply by being present in it, drawing from 1 Corinthians 7. How does understanding yourself as a carrier of sacred presence change the way you think about your home, your workplace, or your relationships with unbelievers?
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Reflection Questions

- The pastor said the threshold covenant is about belonging, loyalty, and protection enacted at the doorway. In what area of your life do you most need to step across that threshold and trust that you are fully covered by the covenant?
 - He described the altar and prayer lines not as moments when one person's anointing does something for another, but as points of activation where faith connects. When have you experienced that kind of activation -- a moment when something shifted because you stepped forward in faith?
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Practical Applications

This week, try one or more of the following:

1. Practice threshold contemplation. Set aside ten to fifteen minutes each day to sit quietly and meditate on one aspect of the resurrection -- not to study it, but to gaze on it. Ask the Holy Spirit to move it from a fact you know to a reality you inhabit. Notice what comes up.
2. Pray over your household. Following the example from the sermon, pray over the doorways and boundaries of your home. Declare it as sacred

ground belonging to God. Do this not as a superstitious ritual but as a conscious act of covenant faith, acknowledging that you and your household belong to him.

3. Identify one area of self-sufficiency. Name one area where you have been trusting your own understanding, resources, or reputation more than your relationship with God. Bring it to him this week and ask what it would look like to overcome that tendency.
4. Reframe a disappointment. If there is a situation in your life where God did not seem to do what you believed he promised, bring it back to the question the pastor identified: Was the real invitation about the outcome, or about trust? Write down what you sense God may have been forming in you during that season.
5. Share your covenant story. Within your small group or with a trusted friend, share a time when God proved faithful in a way you did not expect. Let it serve as a point of activation for faith in others.

Closing Prayer Focus

Close your group time by praying together around these themes:

- Gratitude for the threshold of the cross and the covenant it seals
- Honesty about areas where self-sufficiency has replaced relationship
- Faith to overcome disappointment, distraction, and misrepresentation of who God is
- A fresh awareness of the sacred ground each person carries into their daily life