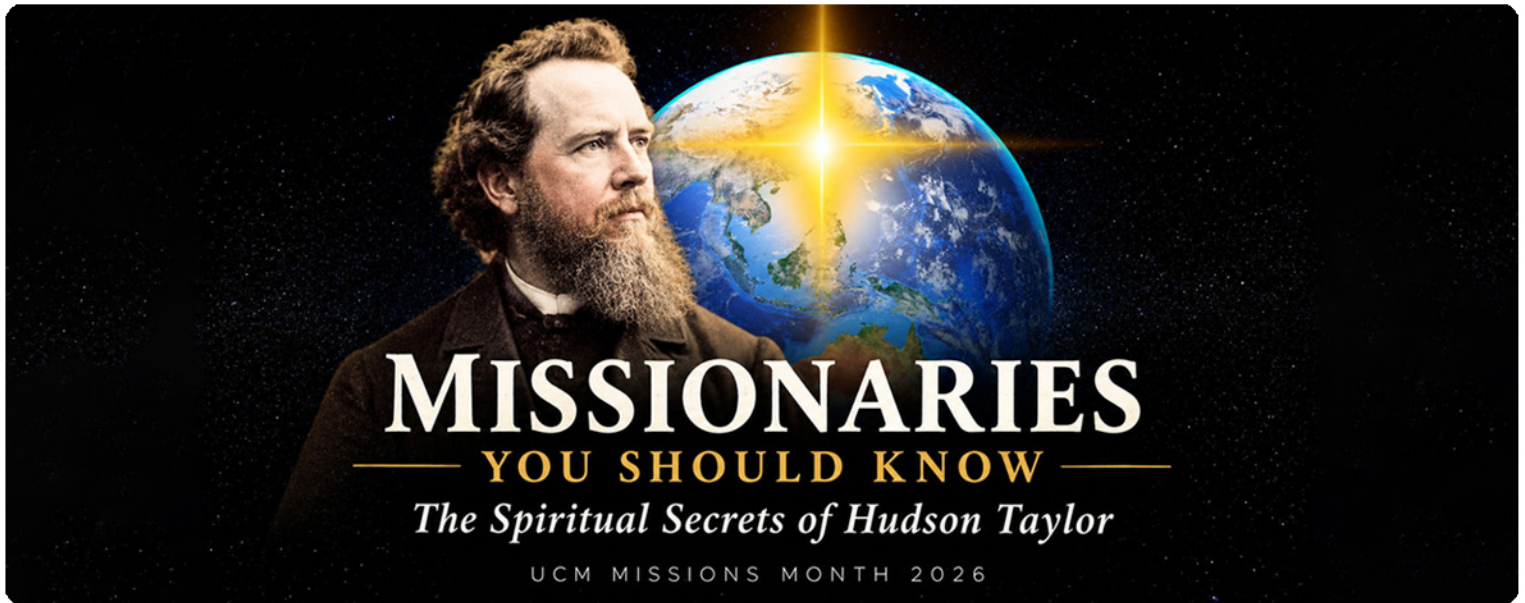




Life Group
Sermon Guide Questions
20 SEPTEMBER 2026



Opening: Hudson Taylor's life reminds us that God often uses ordinary, imperfect people who are willing to trust Him. As we discuss his story, consider not simply what Taylor accomplished, but what God might be asking us to trust Him with.

1) Taylor struggled with feelings of inadequacy, yet he eventually came to believe that God could use him despite his weaknesses and lack of formal training.

Read 1 Corinthians 1:26–29 and 2 Corinthians 4:7: Why do you think God so often chooses people who appear weak or inadequate? What tends to make us feel unqualified to be used by God? How might believing that God works through weakness change the way we approach something He is calling you to do?

2) One of Taylor's greatest spiritual discoveries was that he did not need to manufacture spiritual fruit through greater effort. He needed to remain connected to Christ.

Read John 15:1–5 and Galatians 2:20: What is the difference between working for Christ and abiding in Christ? Why is it so easy for Christians to become exhausted trying to accomplish things for God in their own strength?

MISSIONARIES YOU SHOULD KNOW: "The Spiritual Secrets of Hudson Taylor"

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3) Taylor repeatedly trusted that if God called him to a task, God would provide what was necessary to accomplish it. But trusting God's provision does not necessarily mean having everything we want—or even knowing where the provision will come from.

Read Matthew 6:25–34 and Philippians 4:19: What kinds of needs or uncertainties are hardest for you to entrust to God? How is trusting God's provision different from being careless or reckless? Can you remember a time when God provided for a need, perhaps in an unexpected or last-minute way?

4) Taylor endured enormous personal and ministry trials, including the deaths of his wife and children, opposition from others, illness, criticism, and tremendous suffering around him. Yet he continued in his work.

Read Galatians 6:9, Hebrews 12:1–3, and 2 Corinthians 4:16–18: What do these passages say about why Christians should persevere? When you are discouraged, what usually causes you to want to give up? Why does focusing on something larger than ourselves help us endure difficult seasons?

5) Taylor believed prayer and Scripture were not optional additions to ministry - they were the source of his strength. He famously compared beginning the day without prayer and Scripture to playing an instrument without first tuning it.

Read Psalm 1:1–3, Mark 1:35, and Psalm 119:105: Why do prayer and Scripture so easily get pushed aside by the demands of everyday life? What happens to us spiritually when we try to do God's work without first being "in tune" with God? What practices help you consistently hear from God through His Word and bring your life before Him in prayer?



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6) Taylor prayed for 24 workers and simply planted the seed of what he believed God was asking him to do. He never lived to see the ultimate harvest.

Read 1 Corinthians 3:6–9 and Mark 4:26–29: Do you think it is difficult for us to be faithful when we cannot see the results? How can our desire to see immediate results actually become an obstacle to faithfulness? What is the difference between being responsible for faithfulness and being responsible for results?

7) The sermon ends with an invitation to consider that God is still looking for “small people” through whom He can accomplish His purposes. Taylor didn’t know what God would eventually do through his obedience.

Read Matthew 28:18–20, Acts 1:8, and Ephesians 2:10: What do these passages tell us about God’s purpose for ordinary believers? What is one step of faith you sense God may be asking you to take?

Closing Prayer:

Pray specifically for one another—that God would help the group abide in Christ, trust His provision, persevere through difficulty, and faithfully plant whatever seed He has placed in their hands.

