

## Small Group Guide: MOTHERS' DAY 2026 - God's Wake Up Call

**Opening Question** If you suddenly had a free “bonus day” added to your week (no work, no school, no chores), what would you most want to do with it, and why?

**Opening Prayer** *Lord Jesus, thank you for bringing us together today. As APstor Dan reminded us in his message, help us to be alert and aware of the opportunities in life that we're not supposed to miss. As we talk together and open your Word, help us to hear what you're saying to each of us. Give us courage to respond, to take the next step you're guiding us toward. Lead our conversation and draw us closer to you and to each other. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*

### Key Takeaways from the Sermon

- **Chronos vs. Kairos**

*Chronos* is clock time—day-to-day routines. Mundane.

*Kairos* is a decisive, God-given moment that requires a response—“a limited time offer” that we're called to seize, not just notice.

- **Wake Up Spiritually (Romans 13:11–12)**

Paul calls believers to “wake up from your slumber.”

We're rescued from darkness and brought into Christ's kingdom (Colossians 1:13–14), so we're to “put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.”

- **Our Past Doesn't Ruin God's Future for Us**

No matter what's in our past, Christ has paid the price; our sins are forgiven.

We're called to live as new creations, not chained to old patterns.

- **Joshua's Kairos Moment (Joshua 24)**

Joshua gathers the people and calls them to a clear, public decision: “Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

The strength of the church (big C and little c) is directly tied to the commitment of its people.

- **Four Characteristics of the Choice to Serve God**

**Intentional:** You don't “accidentally” follow Christ; it requires a conscious decision.

**Urgent:** “This day” – it's a now decision, a Kairos moment, not “someday.”

**Unavoidable:** Everyone serves someone or something. Not choosing God is still a choice.

**Generational:** “As for me and my house...” Our decision affects those under our influence.

- **Idols of the Past and Culture**

“Gods of Egypt” = idols of my past (old value systems, lifestyles, and identities).

“Gods of the Amorites” = idols of my present culture (what the world values now).

Idols aren't just statues; they can be success, money, control, relationships, entertainment, or even self. Anything that comes between us and God is an idol.

- **Idols Have Consequences**

Jonah 2:8 – those who cling to worthless idols “forfeit the grace that could be theirs.”

2 Kings 17:15 – they followed worthless idols and “became worthless themselves.”

Idols can block us from experiencing God's grace and transformation, even as Christians.

- **Starving Idols, Feeding the New Life**

We remove idols not by willpower alone but by starving them and feeding our new nature—  
Scripture, prayer, community, service.

What we feed grows louder; what we starve grows quieter.

- **Is God Essential or Optional?**

How we answer that question shows up in our schedules, our finances, and our priorities.

If God is essential, our commitment and lifestyle will reflect that.

## Discussion Questions

### 1. **Read Romans 13:11–12 together.**

- What do you think it practically means to “wake up from your slumber” and “put on the armor of light” in everyday life?
- Where do you see the pull of “chronos” (day-to-day busyness) making it easy to drift spiritually?

### 2. **Read Joshua 24:14–15.**

- What stands out to you most in Joshua’s challenge, and why?
- How is Joshua’s “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” similar to Pastor Dan’s call to see God as *essential* and not *optional*?

### 3. **Intentional & Urgent Choices:** Pastor Dan said following Christ is both *intentional* and *urgent*.

- Without getting too personal, can you share a time when you delayed a spiritual decision and later realized you should have acted sooner?
- What helps you act on what God is prompting you to do, instead of putting it off?

### 4. **Idols of the Past (“Gods of Egypt”):**

- Without naming anything too private, what are some common “past value systems” or habits (in general) that people often carry into their Christian life?
- Why do you think it can feel “safer” to hold on to old patterns, even when we know they’re not good for us?

### 5. **Idols of the Culture (“Gods of the Amorites”): Read Jonah 2:8 and 2 Kings 17:15.**

- What are some cultural “idols” you see around us today—things that can easily become more important than God?
- How might these idols cause people to “forfeit the grace that could be theirs” or become more like the culture and less like Christ?

### 6. **Diagnosing Idols: Time and Money:** Pastor Dan mentioned that our calendars and our finances can reveal what we really worship.

- Without sharing numbers, where do you notice most of your time and energy going? Does that line up with what you say is most important to you spiritually?
- Is there a small, realistic shift you could imagine making in your schedule or spending that would reflect God as more “essential”?

### 7. **Generational & Relational Impact:**

- Joshua spoke about “me and my house.” In your situation—whether you live alone, with roommates, with kids, or with extended family—what might it look like for you to influence your “household” toward serving the Lord?
- What is one simple, doable practice you could introduce at home (or with close friends) that would point people a little more toward Jesus?

8. **Your Kairos Moment – Next Step:** Pastor Dan challenged us to take “the next step” spiritually—whatever that is for each person (accepting Christ, baptism, serving, giving, joining a group, etc.).
- What do you sense might be one next step God is nudging you toward in this season?
  - What support or encouragement from others would help you follow through?

*(Leaders: Give space for silence here; reassure the group that answers can be general and that “I’m still figuring it out” is okay.)*

### **Practical Applications** (Choose one or two.)

1. **Name One Idol and Starve It (Gently but Intentionally)**

- Identify one possible “idol” (time, entertainment, success, control, etc.).
- Choose one concrete way to “starve” it this week (less screen time, a spending pause, saying no to something that crowds God out).

2. **Feed Your New Nature Daily**

- Set aside 10–15 minutes a day to read Scripture and pray.
- A simple plan: read Romans 13:8–14 and Joshua 24:1–28 once or twice this week and ask, “Lord, what are you saying to me?”

3. **Make One “As for Me and My House” Practice** Introduce one small spiritual practice at home:

- Pray before dinner,
- Read a short verse with your family/roommates,
- Share one gratitude each evening.
- Keep it simple and consistent.

4. **Reorder One Part of Your Schedule**

- Look at your weekly calendar and intentionally move *one* thing to make room for something spiritually important (worship, serving, group, quiet time).

5. **Invite Accountability for Your Kairos Step**

- Tell one trusted person (maybe in this group) what you believe your “next step” is.
- Ask them to check in with you once this week to encourage and pray for you.

### **Memory Verse for This Week**

Joshua 24:15b (NIV)

*“But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”*

**Closing Prayer** *Father, thank you for speaking to us through your Word and through Pastor Dan’s message. Thank you for reminding us that our past doesn’t ruin your future for us, and that you’re inviting us to wake up and seize the moments you give. Help us this week to starve the idols that compete for our hearts and to make you essential, not optional. Give us courage to take the next step you showed us tonight, and use us to influence our homes and relationships for you. We commit ourselves and our “households” to you. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*