



Risk or Retreat

Connect: What's the most daring opportunity you've tackled in the last few years? What's the most daring challenge you've let pass you by?

Grow

1. *When faced with the decision to Risk or Retreat, most people will naturally choose retreat. It's just easier that way. Do you agree? Why or why not?*
2. **Read Luke 19:12-26.** What is implied or what can be inferred about the character of God through this passage? How do these thoughts impact the way you think or feel?
3. **Read Luke 19:11.** Jesus shared the parable that follows this verse to correct the assumption people held that the Kingdom of God would begin right away (v. 11).
 - a. How might people live their lives differently if they assume their time is short?
 - b. What adverse impact could it have on the way we follow Jesus and live for the kingdom?
4. Which of the idols David mentioned do you struggle with? How?
 - a. Safety
 - b. Control
 - c. Comfort
5. **Read Philippians 1:20-24.** *Paul understood that both life and death have rewards, so he was willing to risk everything for Jesus. Is it possible that we idolize safety to the point that we have missed God's heart for the world? What are ways you—or someone you know—has done this?*
6. In what ways do we demonstrate at least some level of belief that worldly success is more important than our relationship with God? How can we cultivate the opposite in our lives?

Pray: *Taking a risk for God's Kingdom doesn't always guarantee success. Sometimes I think God just wants to know if we'll take the leap for him. Set a timer for five minutes. Pray and ask God this simple question: What risk are You calling me toward? Then listen quietly until the timer goes off.*

Next: Set up a time with a friend or take time to talk with your group about what you are sensing Him nudging you to take a risk, take a step, leave safety, control, or comfort behind, and trust God with the outcomes.