

THE FADING GRIP

June 1, 2025

Get a Grip & Get a Life // For Those He Loves // John 12:36-50

CONNECT – Announcements (page 2) & Building Relationships

1. Is there anything noteworthy going on in your life since last week? Where have you seen God at work in your life or the lives of others?
2. Share about a time when you almost missed out on something important because you hesitated or doubted. What made you finally take action (or not)?
3. When you were younger, who was someone whose approval meant the most to you? Has that changed over time?

REFLECT - Out of the Word and Into Our Lives

4. From a fresh reading of John 12:36-50 [have someone read it for the group], what's one thing that speaks to you in your current walk?
5. What's one thing from this week's sermon that you hope we talk about as a group?
6. Why do you think many of the Jews still refused to believe in Jesus, even after witnessing so many miracles? Are the reasons why people refuse to believe different in our day?
7. Why do many face the temptation to delay believing in Jesus and how can we help them to see a better way?
8. Pastor Jeremy described how this passage emphasizes human responsibility in believing, but also shows God's sovereignty in extending His grace and hardening hearts of those who refuse it. How do you balance these truths in your own understanding and journey of faith?
9. The sermon highlighted that some people believed in Jesus but kept quiet because they feared losing the approval of others (v.42-43). In what areas of your life do you feel pressure to seek the approval of people rather than God? How can you shift your focus?
10. What makes it hard to live openly for Jesus in our present world?
11. What might it look like to grow in loving God's approval more than people's approval?
12. How do verses 44 through 50 help us to better understand both God's love and His judgment?

PROTECT – Care for one another (divided, gender-specific groups)

13. The passage warns about the danger of a “fading grip” —missing the opportunity to respond to Jesus. Are there areas where you feel your grip on faith or obedience slipping? What is one change you sense God prompting you to make?
14. How can the rest of us hold you accountable this week to take an active step of faith or obedience?



As we close, let's take a few minutes to pray for one another. Ask God to help each of us:

- Keep a strong grip on the truth of the gospel.
- Boldly confess Jesus even when it's difficult.
- Love His approval more than the world's praise.
- Walk out of any darkness into His marvelous light.

Announcements

Thanks to all who came out for our Church-Wide Picnic!

Please be in prayer for our Kiln Student Ministry, which will be taking 30 students and 8 adults to summer camp in Asheville from June 14-18.

Our monthly gatherings for men and women are coming up. Please mark your calendars:

- **Titus 2 Women's Ministry Prayer and Coffee** – coming up on Saturday, June 14 at 9:30am. As a special treat this month, René Jordan will be leading our ladies in a Strawberry Jam Making Class. Ladies – please use the following link to sign up as we need a head count for the event: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080A4DA8AA28A1FB6-57051083-strawberry>
- **Men's Prayer Breakfast** – Our monthly men's prayer breakfast will be on Saturday, June 21 at 8am this month in the church Connections Café.

Individual Options for Going Deeper

The concept of God's judicial hardening of hearts is a challenging topic that generates a lot of questions. Take a look at these resources for some healthy biblical examination of this topic:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/why-does-God-harden-hearts.html>

<https://www.lwf.org/articles/predestined-for-hell-absolutely-not>