

Good morning, everyone! I'm so glad you're here today. My name is Justin Morris, and I'm the youth pastor here at Sturgeon Valley Baptist Church. I'm blessed to be speaking this morning.

You might have noticed all the youth around you, maybe when you came in, on stage, or in the back. We're doing a youth takeover service, so the youth are serving and shadowing in all the different roles that make Sunday mornings happen. There are many people who serve behind the scenes, and today the youth are shadowing them everywhere. So, thank you, students, for stepping out of your comfort zones and participating—it's been awesome.

This morning, we're talking about being faithful in the "in-between." What is the in-between? Well, in our spiritual journey with Jesus, we have highs and lows—mountaintop experiences and deep valleys. But then, there are all the middle parts, the mundane, the day-to-day: getting up, going to work or school, doing what needs to be done. That's the in-between.

It's easy to read the Bible like a highlight reel, especially if you don't read it often. You see all these amazing stories—people being swallowed by fish, lions' dens, fire from heaven. Then in the New Testament, there are miracles, healings, and thousands joining the church in a day. When we look at our own, often mundane lives, it's easy to feel like there is a disconnect to what we read in Scripture. It's similar to social media; we see people's highlight reels—vacations, smiles, fun—and compare that to our ordinary routines, feeling like something's missing.

But the truth is, most of our lives are spent in the in-between. And there's a lot of in-between in the Bible. Take Israel, for example. They were freed from Egypt in miraculous ways, but before that, they endured 450 years of slavery, - generations of people being faithful in the in-between. So, we see the macro and the micro seasons of in-between, and God's faithfulness throughout.

The danger is, in the boring, easy times, it's easy to relax and get distracted from being faithful, especially when we're comfortable. When things are amazing, we have a better perspective of the tedious things. When we're deep in a valley, we cling to our faith because it's all we have, and the other stuff doesn't matter. But in the mundane, we often let insignificant things—like poor service in a restaurant or being cut off in traffic—become big issues.

It's important to be faithful in the in-between because through our steadfastness, God performs his greatest work. Even in the mundane, our faithfulness paves the way for God's subtle yet profound miracles. It's in these moments that He prepares us for the highs and lows of our spiritual journey.

The Bible gives examples of both faithfulness and unfaithfulness in the in-between. Think about the Israelites wandering in the wilderness. After being rescued from Egypt, they saw miracles like the plagues, the pillar of fire, and manna from heaven. Yet, during their 40 years in the desert, they began to complain about things like thirst or lack of variety in food, even saying, "Were there not enough graves in Egypt that you brought us out here to die?" And, of course, there was the golden calf incident, when they got bored waiting for Moses.

But we also see stories of faithfulness. Take Joseph, for instance. In fact, this is where we are reading from today. *So go ahead and open your Bibles to Genesis Chapter 39. If you crack open your Bible, it's on the left.* Many of you know his story, but for those who don't, Joseph was one of Jacob's sons and his father's favorite. His brothers got jealous and sold him into slavery, and he ended up in Egypt, working for a man named Potiphar. Let's read a part of Joseph's story in Genesis 39. We'll start with verses 1-6 and then move to verses 20-23.

Genesis 39:1-6

Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. ²The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. ³His master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. ⁴So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. ⁵From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had, in house and field. ⁶So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate.

For Joseph, this time in Potiphar's house was a low point. He had been betrayed by his own brothers and sold into slavery. But in this season, he worked faithfully, and God blessed him. Of course, trouble came again when Potiphar's wife falsely accused him of making an advancement on her, landing him in prison—another season of in-between. Yet, he remained faithful, and God worked through him even there.

And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison. ²¹But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. ²²And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. ²³The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the Lord was with him. And whatever he did, the Lord made it succeed.

Joseph was in prison for years. But he remained faithful. Just working to bring glory to God. Like Joseph, we don't need to see fire from heaven to trust that God is working. He is always working in the ordinary and ups and downs we experience. At this point, I'd like to invite Jamie to share her testimony about how God has been faithful in her life.

Jaimie's Testimony

When youth prepare for baptism, I often talk with them about their faith journey, and many worry that their story isn't "interesting enough." They might say, "I became a Christian at a young age, prayed with my mom and dad, and I'm still following Jesus." But I remind them that this is one of the best testimonies—it speaks of God's faithfulness to hold onto a life. Sure, a big conversion story can sound exciting, but the quiet faithfulness of growing up in the Lord is just as beautiful, if not more. As parents, this is the testimony we want for our kids!

It's the testimony of Timothy in the Bible. Paul was instructing him to be an overseer among the believers. His faith was passed down from his grandmother to his mother and then to him. It's the story of faithful people sharing their lives and faith, and God works through that.

Parents, here's a freebie. You don't have to do anything flashy to make an impact on your kids' faith. Research shows three simple habits that have the biggest influence: read your Bible often, pray outside of mealtimes, and show up to church regularly. Kids who see their parents doing these things are deeply impacted, but if they're done only occasionally, the impact is minimal.

And notice that it's not the parents making their kids read, pray and go to church – it's about them being faithful in these ordinary things, and the kids see that in their parents.

Finally, God uses these in-between moments to prepare us for what's next. It's okay, and even good, to yearn for more, to want God to move. But in this season, consider the small, daily choices that

honor God. 1 Corinthians 10:31 says, “**Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.**” There’s nothing more mundane than eating and drinking, yet we can still bring God glory in it.

- Consider your current ‘in-between’ season (job, family, personal, relationships, marriage, spiritual)
- Make **Small daily choices** that honour God (1 Cor 10:31)
- When God seems quiet, Trust God is working and you have freedom to act.
- Pray, read, be in community to stay encouraged
- Record in a journal
- Be grateful! Express it!
- Desire MORE and ask the Lord – we have the HS! (Pastor Serge)

We:

- Imagine if we became a community that didn’t just wait for the big, obvious moments of God’s work, but leaned into every season with faithfulness. Imagine if we supported each other in the quiet, everyday times, choosing to grow, trust, and serve even when life feels ordinary. What if we prayed with expectation, asking God to work and truly believing He is moving—even when we can’t see it yet? Picture the **strength, depth, and joy** that would come from a faith rooted not just in the highlight moments but in the consistent, unseen faithfulness that God so values.

Imagine how your in-between season will look as you are faithful to God, and he prepares you for what’s next.

Let’s pray together.