



## **SBSG – Sermon Series – Cliché – God helps those who help themselves**

### **The Purpose of a Sermon Based Small Group (to be read at the beginning of each gathering)**

The purpose of our small group is to actively pursue Christ through relationships, as we worship, serve, and belong together.

### **READ ALOUD BY ALL (allow this prayer to shape your time together)**

**Dear God, help me in this dialogue to be humble & suspend judgment. I recognize that we are all created in your image. Give me courage to stay curious about each other by asking questions. Thank you, God, for this opportunity to meet together and in so doing grow closer to you. AMEN**

**Sermon Series:** Cliché

**Opening question:** Can you think of a time when you judged somebody as not trying to help themselves in any way, and turned out to be mistaken?

**Sermon Synopsis:** This cliché was originally spoken by Benjamin Franklin. And it sounds like a great saying. But at times it's used as an excuse to ignore those who are hurting around us. It also operates under the idea that we only rely on ourselves. But if God only helps those who help themselves, we're all sunk, because we are all broken and struggling. Luckily, Jesus didn't come for the most able or the moral standouts; he came for the broken and the hurting. He came for us.

### **Bible Reading**

Reading the Bible is about reading for practice and spiritual formation – spiritual formation, in which the reader seeks to be formed by the Spirit of God.

**Passage(s) from the sermon:** Proverbs 13:4 Romans 4:4-5 Ephesians 2:4-5 Luke 18:9-14 (NRSV)

What questions do you have about the passages/sermon?

What do you feel God is saying to you through this passage?

**Discipleship Point:** God helps those who cannot help themselves.

Where are you on your journey in terms of prevenient, justifying, or sanctifying grace - and what feels like your next step?

### **Personal Prayer Request**

Share a one or two sentence prayer request with the Small Group for this next week.

### **(Sample Prayer)**

God, we thank you for your presence with us. We lift up these requests to you knowing that you care deeply about us...we pray for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and (fill in prayer requests) ... God we know that you have heard our request and we release all outcomes to you and your glory. It's in your Son's name Jesus that we pray...**AMEN.**