

2023 Our Utmost for His Highest Kick-Off

WHY LEARNING COMMUNITIES?

To become better and better disciples of Christ TOGETHER so we can face **anything** through...

1. Deeper learning of Biblical truth
2. Stronger “iron sharpening iron” relationships

Philippians 1:21–24 ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. **Philippians 1:21–24 (ESV)**

“OUR UTMOST FOR GOD’S HIGHEST”

What does it mean? How is it lived out in everyday life?

Colossians 3:1-17

OUR...

UTMOST...

HIS...

HIGHEST...

TOUGHNESS IS AN ESSENTIAL QUALITY

TOUGHNESS IS... (spiritual, emotional, mental, physical, relational)

TOUGHNESS IS DEVELOPED THROUGH HARD THINGS...

HARD THINGS...

1. Test us – reveal who and what we are so we can grow

APPLICATION: what have the hard things in recent years revealed about you?

2. Train us – gain skills and toughness; competency and character

Philippians 4:10–14 (ESV)

Matthew 7:13–14 (ESV)

Matthew 10:34–39 (ESV)

Luke 8:15 (NIV84) ¹⁵But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

Matthew 24:13 (ESV) ¹³But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

Matthew 10:22 (ESV) ²²and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

How do you need to better live “Our Utmost for God’s Highest?”

What does “Utmost” look like in practical, every day living for you... for us?

How do you need to develop toughness?

What are the hard things for you? How can you prepare?