

## Dream Big, Think Small

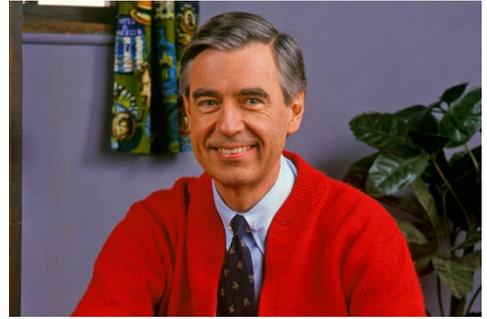
Jeff Manion

Focus: Slow and steady faithfulness.

**Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood; Rev. Fred Rogers**

**On WQED for 33 years (1968-2001)**

Mister Rogers' Neighborhood was honored with four Daytime Emmy awards. In 1997 he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. He was inducted into the Television Hall of Fame in 1999. In 2002, the year before his death, he was awarded with the highest civilian award an American can receive, The Presidential Medal of Freedom.



**Topics: Fear, Loneliness, Anger, Death, Divorce, Racial Issues, Safety, Love**

**Opening Song:** <https://youtu.be/elNuuFyqa5o>

Many viewers came from stable, structured homes. Many were from unstructured, chaos and torn. He was the most structure that some kids ever had (put your coat up, tie your shoes). He believed that the world was NOT a safe place. Consistency. Faithfulness. *“And then he did it again.”* Faithfulness is needed everywhere!

*How do you build a life of significance?*

In this teaching, pastor and author Jeff Manion shares how truly great lives are built on the foundation of a **holy redundancy**—a persistence and determination to move faithfully in the right direction. Whether in our homes, businesses or ministries, a consistent faithfulness will ultimately lead to lasting results.

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Marathon-length faithfulness is an underrated value that's needed in every sector.
- Overnight success is a myth. We are too easily enamored by the quick fix.
- As a culture, we are addicted to immediacy and allergic to boredom. Because of this, we will miss out on the greatest opportunity for impact and influence, which comes by consistently bringing ourselves to routine tasks.
- If you look at the heart of any thriving organization, you will find a core of people who kept showing up over and over again.
- Samuel's life is an example of great impact because of consistency and the value of sameness.

“But Samuel was ministering before the LORD—a boy wearing a linen ephod.”

1 Samuel 2:18

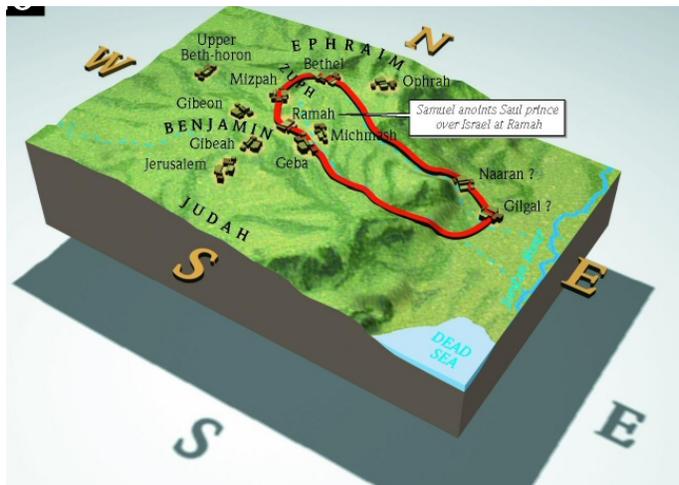
“Speak, for your servant is listening.” 1 Samuel 3:2–10

Adult, mature, prophet, priest and leading the nation in a revival.

Calling the Israelites away from idolatry. 1 Samuel 7

“When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as Israel’s leaders.” 1 Samuel 8:1

“Samuel continued as Israel’s leader all the days of his life. From year to year he went on a circuit from Bethel to Gilgal to Mizpah, *judging Israel in all those places*. But he always went back to Ramah, where his home was, and there he also held court for Israel. And he built an altar there to the LORD.” 1 Samuel 7:15–17



“Now Samuel died, and all Israel assembled and mourned for him; and they buried him at his home in Ramah.”

1 Samuel 25:1 (NIV)

“David took up this lament concerning Saul ... and he ordered that the people of Judah be taught this lament ...” 2 Samuel 1:17–18 (NIV)

*When you die, will people be shedding the tears of Samuel or Saul?*

- If everything has to be new and interesting all the time, you will probably miss out on your greatest opportunity for impact and influence.
- *Gratitude pushes out complaint, anxiety and envy.* **Gratitude** is an obsession with what's going right. **Complaint** is an obsession with what's going wrong. **Anxiety** is an obsession with what might go wrong. **Envy** is an obsession with what's going right for everyone else (*Why them and not me?!).*
- It's not what we do once, it's what we do on repeat. It's *mastering the mundane.* **Holy redundancy** is what shapes the heart over time.
- Often our personal consistency and routine is life-giving to someone else.
- Faithfulness is not a flashy virtue. It's slow moving. But it's beautiful and it's good.

### 20-Mile March



*"It has been an unpleasant day – storm, drift and frostbite, but we have advanced 13 miles closer to our goal." – Journal of Roald Amundson*



*"I doubt if any party could travel in such weather."  
- Journal of Robert Falcon Scott*



## I'LL BE BACK

At the conclusion of each program Mister Rogers reversed the steps enacted in the introduction, putting on his street shoes and suit jacket and singing a closing number. His closing song changed over time, but in the later years of the program he sang,

And I'll be back, when the day is new  
And I'll have more ideas for you  
And you'll have things you want to talk about.  
I will too.

**Closing Song:** <https://youtu.be/K1Dvq0cDRsl>

Those four words—“And I'll be back”—typified his thirty-three-year run. He was back. Day after day. Week after week. Month after month. Decade after decade. He was a dependable, faithful neighbor.

Gracious God, I need your refilling so badly in my life. Life drains me. People drain me. To serve faithfully with love and passion, I need you to restore my soul. Please refill my life so that out of the resources you provide I can graciously fill others. I don't want to live a passionless life. I ask for your wisdom with my thankfulness for all you provide.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Think about your “daily circuit” – i.e. the daily activities that add up to big change over time. Name three of those things below.

---

---

2. Reflect on how faithfulness to your “daily circuit” could make a big impact in your life over time. How have you seen God use your faithfulness up to this point? What could continued faithfulness in your “daily circuit” mean for your future?

---

---

3. If you could change one thing in your “daily circuit” to increase the quality of your life over time, what would it be? Identify one of the action steps below and make a plan to accomplish it.

I would add a new practice of: \_\_\_\_\_

---

I would eliminate a destructive practice of: \_\_\_\_\_

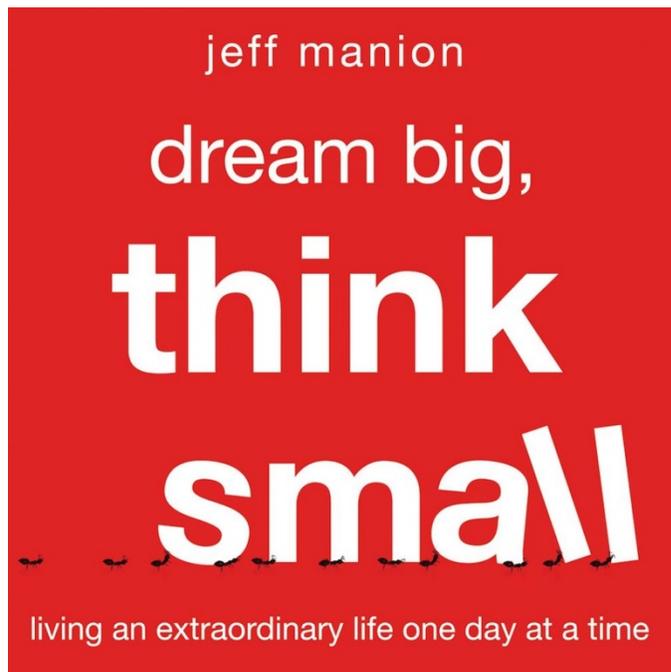
---

I would be more faithful in my current practice of: \_\_\_\_\_

---

## RESOURCES MENTIONED:

- Wynton Marsalis
- Yo-Yo Ma
- Emmy Awards
- Television Hall of Fame
- Fred Rogers Receives Presidential Medal of Freedom
- Bill Murray, Groundhog Day
- Craig Groeschel, Life.Church
- GLS Podcast Episode 004: Craig Groeschel
- *Great by Choice* by Jim Collins



Introduction: The Myth of Overnight Success

How to Read This Book

▶ WEEK ONE: A CASE FOR STEADY MOVEMENT

▶ WEEK TWO: REFILLING AN EMPTY TANK

▶ WEEK THREE: A HEALTHY HEART

▶ WEEK FOUR: LIFE-GIVING RELATIONSHIPS

▶ WEEK FIVE: STRESS FRACTURES

▶ WEEK SIX: REVISITING SUCCESS

Conclusion: Narrow Your Focus and Begin

Acknowledgments