



First Baptist Church of Highland Park
Men's Bible Study Handout
“The Butterfly Effect”
From Mark Batterson's “Gradually Then Suddenly”
Monday, April 27, 2026

Theme: Small Moves. Big Impact.

Brief Chapter Summary:

In Chapter 8, Mark Batterson explores how small, seemingly insignificant actions can lead to massive long-term outcomes. Spiritually, the little decisions you make today shape the life you live tomorrow.

Anchor Scripture:

Zechariah 4:10 (NLT)

“Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin...”

Opening Question:

What small decision in your life right now could change everything if you took it seriously?

1. Don't Underestimate Small Beginnings

Supporting Scriptures: Zechariah 4:10; Matthew 13:31–32

Teaching:

Small neglect leads to drift, but small disciplines lead to growth.

Key Line:

You don't become great overnight—you become great by what you refuse to ignore daily.

2. Your Decisions Create Ripples Beyond You

Supporting Scriptures: Galatians 6:7–9; Joshua 24:15

Teaching:

Your decisions affect your future, your family, and your legacy.

Key Line:

You're not just making decisions—you're making history.

3. Consistency Beats Intensity

Supporting Scriptures: Luke 16:10; 1 Corinthians 15:58

Teaching:

God honors consistency in the small.

Key Line:

What you do consistently matters more than what you do occasionally.

Emotional Turn:

Some of us are dealing with the consequences of small decisions we thought didn't matter... and some of us are one small decision away from changing everything.

Application:

- What small habit do I need to start?
- What small compromise do I need to stop?
- What small step have I been avoiding?

Discussion Questions:

1. What is one small decision you've made that had a big impact later?
2. Why do we overlook small things spiritually?
3. Where is consistency missing in your life?
4. How can your decisions impact future generations?
5. What small beginning do you need to take seriously?

Additional Scriptures:

Proverbs 4:23; James 1:22; Hebrews 12:11; Psalm 37:23

Closing Charge:

Don't wait on a big moment—be faithful in the small ones. One small step in the right direction can change everything.

Closing Prayer:

Lord, help us to stop overlooking the small things. Give us discipline, focus, and courage to take small steps that lead to big change. In Jesus' name, Amen.