

Small Group and Personal Bible Study

Memory Verse: Hebrews 11:6

“Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.”

Daily Reading Plan:

Day 1 Hebrews 11:1-16

Day 2 Hebrews 11:17-40

Day 3 Matthew 9:1-13

Day 4 Matthew 9:18-31

Day 5 Matthew 15:21-28

Lesson Questions:

1. What Biblical example most impresses you as a demonstration of true faith?

As I preached on Sunday, I have been impressed by Jonah's faith to trust God and rely on Him even while in the belly of a fish. At the same time, the story of the woman who just knows that if she touches Jesus' robe she can be healed demonstrates great faith. Another great story of faith is found in Daniel when three men refuse to bow to anyone but our God. After being thrown into a furnace God joins them and rescues them from certain death.

2. When have you had to take a step of faith in God and trust His promise?

I remember the following day of the attack on 9/11 I felt so called by God to minister to people I worked with at Orchard Supply Hardware that I wanted to open up the training center to a time of prayer. At the same time I knew the business would be against supporting anything "religious". In faith my co-worker and ministry partner, Steve, I prayed and then I approached my boss, the Vice President of HR and asked her for permission to let people come into the Training Center for prayer. She told me she would consult with the other OSH executives and get back to me. She came back in less than a half hour and I was informed that they would not only support the prayer but that they all thought people needed spiritual and emotional support but none of the executive committee felt able to fill that need. She asked me to lead the entire corporate office in a time of worship and prayer that day at the flag pole. That day, over 200 people from our corporate office gathered outside at the flag pole and Steve and I had the opportunity to lead them in prayer, speak truth from the word of God, and worship Him publically. I learned God can do far more than I could ever ask or imagine and my faith grew that day.

3. How did stepping out in faith strengthen your trust in God and increase your joy and thanks to God?

As expressed in the previous example, my faith was greatly increased when I realized that He had bigger plans than mine. This answer to prayers increased my boldness in Christ and He has never let me down. Steve and I began and led an office bible study group at OSH. A short time after the event on 9/11 I got a call from Steve. He was told by his boss that we were going to have to stop meeting for Bible study at the office and he was taking it to my boss, the VP of HR. Steve and I prayed in faith that God would just handle the situation and allow us to continue. The same day, when the complaint was taken to my boss, we were reconfirmed that we could continue to meet for our group and our Bible study was never challenged again. In fact to this day they continue to meet on the company property and worship God.

4. How does approaching God in thanksgiving before He has answered demonstrate your faith and trust in Him?

By thanking God I demonstrate that I know He is real, He is in control of all things, He knows what is best for me and His promises are worthy of my trust