

Small Group & Personal Bible Study

Memory Verses: 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.”

Discovery Bible Study Exercise:

In your journal or on a piece of paper make three columns and follow these steps:

- Step #1: Read Hebrews 11:6
- Step #2: Re-write in your own words Hebrews 11:6
- Step #3: Write down what you discover from this passage
- Step #4: What will you do to obey what this passage says?

Daily Meditation Readings:

Stories of Water Walking Decisions

Day 1 – Genesis 22:1-18 (Abraham & Isaac)

Day 2 – Exodus 13:17-14:31 (Moses & the Red Sea)

Day 3 – Numbers 13-14 (Twelve Spies)

Day 4 – Matthew 19:16-30 (Rich Man)

Day 5 – Matthew 14:22-33 (Jesus & Peter)

Lesson: If you want to walk on water...you've got to get out of the boat!

Often in our journey following Christ, we face invitations by God to join Him in His work doing something we cannot do on our own. We believe that if we attempt what God is calling us to do, we will fail. Only if God intervenes, will we be able to accomplish what He is asking of us. At this point we will always face a crisis of belief. We must decide what we believe about God. How we respond will determine whether we go on to be involved in something God-sized that only He can do or if we will continue to go our own way and miss what He has purposed for our life. What we do next says more about our faith in God than anything else.

Read each story from the scriptures listed above and answer these questions:

1. What was the crisis of belief that the character in this story faced?

In these stories; (1) Abraham faced sacrificing his only son and a crisis of believing if God would provide for him and save his son. (2) Moses faced the possibility of being destroyed by the Egyptians or drowning in the Red Sea but he had to trust God to provide protection and a way of escape. (3) The spies had to decide if God was big enough to give them what He had promised and face an enemy whom looked unbeatable. (4) The rich young ruler had to decide if God was more important than his possessions. (5) Peter had to decide if coming to Jesus was more important than safety and comfort of the boat.

2. What response did that person make to God's invitation to believe and trust in Him for things only God could do?

(1) Abraham trusted God and went all the way, willing to give up his son if the Lord demanded it. (2) Moses cried out to God for help and when God gave him a command, he trusted God to part the sea. (3) Ten spies were overcome by fear and departed trusting God and chose to follow their own logic while two trusted God and saw what God had promised rather than the obstacles in front of them. (4) The rich man decided he was too comfortable with what he had to give them up so the loss was too great. He decided to stay where he was and not follow Jesus. (5) Peter wanted to be with Jesus so much he left the boat, only when he looked at the waves crashing did he sink.

3. What was the result of this response?

(1) God spared Isaac and because of his faith, Abraham received the Father's blessing promised to him. (2) Moses and the Israelites crossed over on dry land and God overcame the Egyptians. Moses praised God and he became a great leader and experienced God in many great ways. (3) Two spies went on to walk with God and be used for His purpose. Later they both entered the Promised Land while the others were prevented by God from ever receiving the blessing of entering the Promised Land. (4) The rich young man went away sad, never experiencing the power of God in his life. (5) Peter walked on water and went on to lead Christ's church. A powerful, fearless leader who had felt the touch of God in his life.

4. What lesson do you learn and how will you apply it in your life?

Ask people to share what lessons they learned and how they will apply it to their life.

No matter what God is calling me to do I must trust Him. Without faith it is impossible to please God. I must trust Him. I must believe He is who He says He is in His word and He will do what He says He will do. My only responsibility is to remain connected to Him and step out in faith when He calls me. In John 5:15 Jesus says, "I am the vine you are the branches, if a man remains in me and I in him he will bear fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing!" He goes on to say in verse 16, "you did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name."