

Zoe Christian Fellowship of Whittier
Dr. Joshua Smith
Bishop Edward A. Smith

“Trusting God When (it seems) all Hope is Gone”

INTRODUCTION TO LESSON

Life Group Lesson Objective: “Understanding the Power of Faith

Life Group Preparation:

THE POWER OF FAITH/ & LIVING BY FAITH..... IT’S A LIFESTYLE

Mark 11: 1-26-21 – In this lesson Jesus demonstrates “have faith in God”

- Mark 11:1-14 – He cursed the fig tree...the fig tree died
- Mark 11: 22-26 – Praying and guarding your heart

FAITH IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Mark 11:22-23

- Encourage life group members to share how this scripture applies to their everyday life...
- "Having faith in your own words...." Mark 11:22-23
 - Or the “having the God kind of faith – (example God spoke) creation into existence in Gen 1:3-27
- Whosoever saysand does not doubt in his heart.....but believes that what he says will come to pass, he will have whatever he says

When Jesus spoke to the tree, he did not use a scripture or verse; however, he did speak with faith, he spoke in faith to the tree. The tree obeyed his words. He knew what he said would happen.

Have Faith in God ... – January 2021

WEEK 1 – JESUS SAID HE WILL CONFIRM HIS WORD WITH “signs following” (Mark 16:20)

Discussion Question: Look at the cursed fig tree through Peter’s eyes, what is going on through his mind when he sees the tree is cursed?

When Jesus cursed the fig tree, the disciples heard it, expect Jesus to confirm his word with signs following in your own personal life.

- "Having Faith in God..." Mark 11:22-23
 - Or the God kind of faith – God spoke creation into existence in Gen 1:3-27
 - God believed what he said would come to pass or he would not have said it.
 - Mark 11:23-24 – when a person believes in his heart and SAYS what he believes in his heart, and it comes to pass.
 - *BELIEVING WHAT I SAY IS IN LINE WITH GOD’S WORD*
 - *IF GOD SAID IT, I CAN SAY IT; I WILL HAVE WHAT I SAY!*

Jesus demonstrated the power of faith in God with the demonstration of the fig tree.

Example: Romans 10:9-10 (believing and saying, not doubting)

- If I believe in my heart and say it with my mouth...I shall be saved!

believers should live their life...having faith in God.

Let us be honest - Discussion Question: *Has there ever been a time in your life when you were believing God and it didn't happen? What did you learn from this experience?*

Week #2 – FAITH IN GOD by ACTING ON HIS WORD

Group Discussion Questions: What are some reasons that you may have problems acting on God’s Word?

James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

- Jas 1:6 – but let him as in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.
- Jas 1:7 – For let not that man THINK that he shall receive any thing of the Lord
- Jas 1:8 – A doubleminded man is unstable in all his ways.

Describe “acting on God’s Word”

When Jesus told his disciples to have “faith in God” he implied that we can have faith in God.

How can we Increase and/or develop our faith?

Page 2 of 4 **“Help People Change Their Lives for God’s Purpose”**

Have Faith in God ... – January 2021

- Romans 10:17 – So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
 - Give examples of “How can we give ourselves to hearing and hearing the Word of God”?
 - Listening to faith building sermons in different media forms
 - Speak or say the word (Mark 11:22); so, you can hear yourself say it
 - Col 3:16 – Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly

*****Acts 17:11 – These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that, they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily whether those things were so.

Jas 3:22 Be ye doers of the Word, not just hearers only...do not be self-deceived!

- **Believer #1** – Hears God’s Word and acts on the word (doer)
- **Believer #2** – Hears God’s Word and continues to act and speak as if he did not hear the Word. (hearer only)

It takes faith in God to believe and receive....

- You cannot pray for faith
- You cannot fast for faith
- Faith comes by hearing the Word of God

Week #3 – SATAN WANTS TO STOP US FROM HEARING AND ACTING ON THE WORD OF GOD

Group Discussion Questions: Discuss ways the enemy will try to keep us from acting on the word?

Jas 2:20 – But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

- “Faith without corresponding actions will not work on your behalf.” (Weymouth’s translation)

FEAR- that the promises of God will not work for me.... 2 Tim 1:7 God did not give you a spirit of fear.....

ANXIOUS & WORRY – I Pet 5:7 – Casting all your cares on him...

- Phil 4:6 – Do not be anxious or worried about anything, but in everything [every circumstance and situation] by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make your [specific] requests known to God.

Mark 4:14 – the sower sows the WORD

But when affliction, problems, cares of this world, lusts of other things, deceitfulness of riches and lusts of other things enter in...choke the Word.

Have Faith in God ... – January 2021

Proverbs 4:23 (NIV) Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

Guard your heart by hearing & hearing the word; meditate on the word day and night, walk in love, confess your sin immediately. (I John 1:9)

- I Thess 3:13 – He will establish your hearts unblameable in holiness.

Don't' Be Ignorant of Satan's Devices:

- Becoming complacent with your reading and studying the word
- your prayer life.

Let us be honest - Discussion Question: *How can you eliminate the enemy's tactics to developing your faith in God?*

Week #4 –SETTLE IN YOUR HEART YOU WILL HAVE FAITH IN GOD

Group Discussion Questions: - Rate YOUR faith in God, the bible says Abraham was STRONG in faith?

Abraham gave glory to God...

- He did not consider his body or Sarah's body
- He did not doubt the promise (staggered not)
- He was fully persuaded that what God had promised he was able to do
 - God who cannot lie, manifested His word through preaching – Tit 1:2-3
 - God is not a man that he should lie – Num 23:19

ALLOW THE HOLY SPIRIT TO HELP YOU

Build yourself up on your most holy faith – Jude:20

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit – Eph 6:18

God's word gives us confidence that 'WHATSOEVER' he said and promised to his children is true. Faith in God believes his word; and says what his word says, and acts on his word.

SPEAK TO THE MOUNTAIN AND BELIEVE YOU RECEIVE

Let us be honest - Discussion Question: *Give at least two (2) ways this lesson has helped you to have a clear vision on how to apply to this lesson to your daily life?*