

Staying Faithful

Brian Harrell

Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!

Open

This week, International Mission Board missionary and church-planter Brian Harrell will be sharing about his family's life and ministry over the last several years as they reach out to the over 300,000 Makhuwa Nahara people who live around him on the coast of Mozambique. As you can imagine, it's a tough thing to take the good news of Jesus where very few have heard of Him (much less follow Him), but the Harrells' ministry demonstrates the amazing things that can happen when we approach our circumstances with the conviction to stay faithful no matter what. The author of the book of Hebrews wrote to encourage his readers to endure even in the face of hardships by reminding them of Biblical heroes, so to get your group started let everyone share - who they would name as a hero or encourager of their faith (either personal or in biblical times)?

BIG THOUGHT

Being faithful in our walk with God means that we remain steadfast and confident that He is fulfilling His plans for and through us even when we face difficulties.

1. Read Hebrews 11:1-2. How does the author define "faith"? Can you think of any examples in the physical world of things we can't see but know are true? And how important is faith in our walk with God? (v. 2)
2. Now read v. 3-12. Which of these examples of faithfulness stand out to you the most? Why? Let everyone in the group share their thoughts...
3. Read v. 13-16. What attitude did these people have as they waited? (v. 13) What motivated them? And what was the result? (v. 16) How can knowing this is our reward encourage us when we're experiencing "in-between" times on our journey with God?

4. Now read v. 17-19. What was Abraham's ultimate test of faith? (v. 17 - read Genesis 22:1-19) Why did God's request require faith? (v. 18) What did Abraham believe about God? (v. 19) How do our actions show the true nature of our faith? Explain.
5. Read v. 20-31. Which of the examples in this next list stand out to you the most? Why?
6. Now read v. 32-38. What encouraging things happened as a result of people's faith? What difficulties and tragedies did others experience due to their faith? What about your own life - have there been times when you saw victories because of your faith? Or times when you faced suffering? Share with the group if you can...
7. To finish, read v. 39. How important is our faithfulness as we wait on what we hope for? Now make it personal - what is an area in your life right now where you are having to endure difficulties as you wait in faith? Let group members pray for each other.

Take it Further

Talk with God and thank Him that, through faith, we can be sure of His goodness even when we go through difficult circumstances. Then ask for Him to strengthen you to help you remain faithful.

Daily Readings

Day 1: 2 Corinthians 5:7
Day 2: Philippians 4:13
Day 3: James 1:3

Day 4: 1 Corinthians 16:13
Day 5: 18:32 Luke 17:5
Day 6: 1 Corinthians 2:5

Memory Verse: Hebrews 11:1



1651 Dutch Fork Rd., Irmo, SC
www.gatewaybc.com