

Faith Appears Foolish Study Guide

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Series Overview

Faith is being willing to act according to the prompting of God’s voice, even though we know our actions will appear foolish to others.

Using This Guide

You may choose to use this guide:

- for personal study and reflection
- as a discussion guide with any group of people interested in what the Bible says about this topic

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1-Enoch: Faith to Walk with God

Icebreaker: Real Christian

Discuss your reaction to this quote.

“A real Christian is an odd number anyway. He feels supreme love for One Whom he has never seen, talks familiarly every day to Someone he cannot see — expects to go to Heaven on the virtue of Another, empties himself in order to be full, admits he is wrong so he can be declared right, goes down in order to get up — is strongest when he is weakest, richest when he is poorest, and happiest when he feels worst. He dies so he can live, forsakes in order to have, gives away so he can keep, sees the invisible, hears the inaudible and knows that which passeth knowledge.” -A.W. Tozer

Questions for Study or Discussion: To Walk with God

- To walk with God, you must have a nature like His (**2Pet 1:4**). What does it take to have a nature like God’s nature?
- To walk with God, you must deal with your sin (**1John 1:6-7**). Discuss what it means to deal with your sin.
- To walk with God, you must be willing to allow Him to occupy your thoughts (**Gal 5:22-23**). What are some things about Jesus’ life that show us how to walk with God (**1John 2:6**)?
- To walk with God, you must continue in your faith (**Col 2:6-7**). What helps you continue in your faith?

Dig a Little Deeper: Entering into God's Presence

Enoch **entered into God's presence**. The way God took Enoch pictures the way He will take believers who are living at the time of His return (*1The 4:17*).

Application Exercise: Trusting God

Enoch trusted God with every aspect of his life (*Heb 11:5-6*).

- Make a list of the parts of your life where it's easy to trust God.
- Make a list of the parts of your life where you struggle to trust God.

| <i>Where It's Easy to Trust God</i> | <i>Where It's Difficult to Trust God</i> |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| | |

2-Abraham: Faith to Go

Icebreaker: Know to God

When you are planning to go somewhere, what do you want to know before you go?

Questions for Study or Discussion: When He Calls

- A life of faith involves going where God wants us to go (*Gen 12:1* and *Heb 11:8-10*). What are some of the things He wants us to leave behind (*2Cor 5:17* and *Eph 5:6-7*)?
- The most positive thing about our faith is not what we can see, hold, or measure. What is the most positive thing about our faith (*Psa 27:4* and *Job 19:25-27*)?
- Worldliness is the word we use to describe the force which makes us want to cling to our old ways (*Jas 4:4* and *1John 2:15-17*). Discuss ways to keep our love focused on God.
- To do earthly good, we must be heavenly-minded (*Col 3:2*). In what way does our mindset make it easier to go when He calls?

Dig a Little Deeper: Pattern of Faith

Abraham gives us the pattern of faith and he is a father to everyone who lives by faith in God ([Gal 3:7](#) and [Gal 3:29](#)). Abraham was not righteous in himself; however, God counted Abraham righteous **because** of his faith ([Acts 7:2-5](#) and [Rom 4](#)).

Abraham obeyed by going when he did not know:

- **Where** he was going ([Heb 11:8-10](#)).
- **How** God would accomplish His will ([Heb 11:11-12](#)).
- **When** God would fulfill His promises ([Heb 11:13-16](#)).
- **Why** God was working in a certain way ([Heb 11:17-19](#)).

Application Exercise: Faith to Go Assessment

How true are the following statements for you?

| | not true ←→completely true |
|--|----------------------------|
| I am willing to go or stay as God directs. | 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 |
| I am willing to leave my old ways behind. | 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 |
| I want what God wants. | 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 |

3-Sarah: Faith for New Life

Icebreaker: Impossible?

- What are some seemingly impossible things you think God wants to change in you?
- As a group, pray for the faith to see God birth impossible things in each of you.

Questions for Study or Discussion: Waiting

- Sarah had to wait 25 years for God to fulfill His promise of a son ([Heb 11:11-12](#)). Waiting is one of the most difficult disciplines in life. Discuss examples of having to wait years for something.
- Remember when you became a Christ-follower. How eager were you to see Him working in your life? What changes came more slowly than you desired?
- True faith enables us to wait for the fulfillment of God's purposes in God's time ([Rom 4:13-25](#)). What can we do to be more patient as we wait for God's promises?
- God's power is there for us to claim according to His will ([Php 4:13](#) and [Eph 3:20](#)). Discuss how faith is a requirement for claiming God's power ([Mark 9:23](#)).

Dig a Little Deeper: When It Doesn't Make Sense

Sometimes, what God promises doesn't make sense.

| Unbelief | Faith |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Luke 1:18-20</i> | <i>Luke 1:34-37</i> |

Application Exercise: Pray for the Promise

- Make a list of things you know God is promising you.
- Through prayer, claim those promises.
- Acknowledge that everything must be according to His will and in His time.

4-Joseph: Faith for the Future

Icebreaker: Futuristic

- Make a list of your favorite futuristic movies or television programs.
- What is appealing about those movies or programs?

Questions for Study or Discussion: Promises

- Joseph did not use his family, job, or circumstances as excuses for unbelief (**Heb 11:22**).
 - ▶ He knew **what** he believed (**Gen 50:24-26**). When it comes to things beyond your lifetime, how certain are you about what you believe? What can we do to increase our faith about our ultimate future?
 - ▶ He knew **where** he belonged (**Exo 13:19** and **Josh 24:32**). When it comes to things beyond your lifetime, how certain are you about where you belong? What can we do to increase our faith about our eternal destination?
- What does God promise us in the following verses? When will He fulfill those promises?

| | <i>Promise</i> | <i>Fulfilled When?</i> |
|---------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Mat 5:12 | | |
| John 3:15-16 | | |
| John 14:1-3 | | |
| 1Cor 2:9 | | |
| Php 3:21 | | |
| Heb 10:34-35 | | |
| Rev 21:4 | | |

Dig a Little Deeper: Hints about Heaven

- Filled with the light of God's glory (**Rev 21:23**)
- Restful (**Heb 4:3**)
- Absence of tears (**Rev 7:17**)
- Joy (**Luke 15:7**)

Application Exercise: Faith for the Future Assessment

How true are the following statements for you?

| | not true ←→ completely true |
|--|-----------------------------|
| I am clear on my eternal destination. | 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 |
| Knowing my eternal destination helps me keep my time here on earth in perspective. | 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 |

5-The Others: Faith to Endure

Icebreaker: Endurance Video

Watch and discuss this video or watch and discuss another endurance video of your choice.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nhk_5c6H-yc

Questions for Study or Discussion: Faith to Endure

- Gideon was a frightened farmer who God used because of his faith (**Jdg 6:11-7:25**). Barak was unsure of his abilities, but believed God's promises (**Jdg 4:4-15**). When we falter in our faith, how can the examples of Gideon and Barak encourage us to continue?
- We remember Samson for his failings. In the end, he trusted God and was willing to give his life to defeat the enemy (**Jdg 16:23-30**). God commends him for his faith (**Heb 11:32-34**). When we succumb to sin, how can the example of Samson's faith challenge us to get back on a godly path?
- Samuel battled against Israel's idolatry and immorality. It takes courage to fight either physical battles or societal pressures. Compare and contrast these types of battles (**1Sam 7:10** and **1Sam 10:18-19**).
- God does not always deliver the faithful from their difficult circumstances (**Heb 11:36-38**). When God has not removed your difficult circumstances, what can help you trust Him (**Dan 3:16-18**)?

Dig a Little Deeper: Accept the Worst, Trust in the Best

When you are willing to accept the worst the world has to offer, you do it because of the best God has to offer. That is the pinnacle of faith. Our present sufferings don't compare to rewards God has promised (*Rom 8:18* and *1Pet 1:4*).

Application Exercise: Prayer for Faith

Pray that God:

- Continues to use His Word to show you how best to walk with Him.
- Makes it clear where He wants you to go or stay.
- Continues to deepen your trust in Him.
- Helps you be content and faithful as you wait for Him to fulfill His promises.
- Continues to remind you of your eternal destination.
- Gives you the courage and determination to endure difficult circumstances.