

TAKE THE STEP

Week 4 Small Group Discussion Guide

BIG IDEA: Knowing what God is asking us to do is not the same as doing it. Faith requires a response.

Primary Scriptures: Genesis 12:1-4 | Hebrews 11:8 | Proverbs 3:5-6 | James 1:22 | James 2:17 | Joshua 3:13-16

OPENING CONVERSATION

Think about a time when you knew you needed to do something, but kept putting it off. What made taking the first step difficult?

- Fear
- Uncertainty
- Lack of information
- Comfort
- Concern about what other people would think
- Not feeling ready

Leader Note: Allow several people to share. Keep this opening conversational and use it to transition into the difference between knowing and doing.

DISCUSSION 1 | OBEDIENCE DOESN'T REQUIRE COMPLETE INFORMATION

Read: Genesis 12:1-4 and Hebrews 11:8

God gave Abraham direction without giving him every detail. Abraham knew WHO was leading him before he knew WHERE God was taking him.

1. What stands out to you about Abraham's response to God?
2. Why do we often want God to give us all the details before we obey?
3. What is the difference between needing discernment and simply wanting certainty?
4. Have you experienced a season where God gave you enough direction to move, but not enough information to know how everything would work out?
5. What did that season teach you about trusting God?

KEY TRUTH: Faith isn't having all the information. Faith is trusting the One who does.

Go Deeper: Read Proverbs 3:5-6. What would trusting God look like when His direction is clear but you still have unanswered practical questions?

DISCUSSION 2 | DON'T ASK GOD FOR STEP TWO WHILE REFUSING STEP ONE

Read: James 1:22

Sometimes we keep asking God, “What’s next?” while He has already shown us something we have not obeyed. Some things are only discovered along the way.

1. Why is it sometimes easier to pray for more direction than to act on the direction we already have?
2. Can seeking more confirmation become a way of delaying obedience? What might that look like?
3. How can we tell the difference between wisely waiting on God and procrastinating?
4. What role should Scripture, prayer, wise counsel, and the Holy Spirit play in discerning our next step?
5. What is something God has already been dealing with you about? Share only what you are comfortable sharing.

DISCERNMENT is needed when I don't know what God is saying. OBEDIENCE is needed when I know what God has said but haven't moved.

Personal Question: What has God already told you to do that you keep asking Him about?

DISCUSSION 3 | SOMETIMES THE STEP COMES BEFORE THE MIRACLE

Read: Joshua 3:13-16

Israel stood before an overflowing Jordan River. At the Red Sea, the water moved and then the people walked. At the Jordan, the priests stepped and then the water moved: FEET FIRST, THEN WATER.

1. What do you notice about the order of events in Joshua 3?
2. Why might God sometimes allow us to take a step before we see Him change the situation?
3. Have you ever assumed difficulty meant you had missed God?
4. What does this passage teach us about that assumption?
5. What are some things we commonly tell God must happen before we will obey?

KEY TRUTH: Difficulty does not automatically mean you missed God.

The priests were not acting recklessly. They were responding to God's instruction. Faith is not deciding what I want to do and asking God to bless it. Faith is responding to what God said.

Discuss: What is the difference between faith and simply being reckless?

DISCUSSION 4 | YOU DON'T HAVE TO FEEL READY TO BE OBEDIENT

God did not ask the priests to cross the entire Jordan in one step. He asked them to put their feet in the water. Sometimes we make obedience bigger than God made it.

- Make the call.
- Start the conversation.
- Apply for the position.
- Forgive.
- Ask for help.
- Start serving.
- Invite someone.
- Use your gift.
- Take the next turn.

1. Why can thinking about the entire journey make obedience more intimidating?
2. How does focusing on the next step change your perspective?
3. Where might fear of the future be keeping you from obeying God in the present?

KEY TRUTH: Sometimes the biggest act of faith isn't a giant leap. It's one obedient step after another.

DISCUSSION 5 | YOUR STEP IS BIGGER THAN YOU

Read: Genesis 12:2-3

God's instruction to Abraham was personal, but God's purpose was bigger than Abraham. God was doing something **IN** Abraham because He wanted to do something **THROUGH** Abraham.

1. Who was ultimately affected by Abraham's obedience?
2. How does realizing that other people may be connected to our obedience change how we think about our decisions?
3. Who could potentially be affected by your next step?
4. Could someone else's encouragement, healing, salvation, growth, or opportunity be connected to something God wants to do through you?
5. What gift, testimony, experience, or resource has God placed in your life that could bless someone else?

KEY TRUTH: THERE ARE PEOPLE ATTACHED TO YOUR YES.

Sent people are sent to people. Maybe your next step is not primarily about getting something **TO** you. Maybe God is trying to get something **THROUGH** you to somebody else.

PERSONAL APPLICATION | WHAT IS MY NEXT STEP?

Take a few quiet moments and ask God: "What is my next step of obedience?"

The conversation I need to have:

The decision I need to make:

Something I've been delaying:

The uncomfortable yes:

ONE step I can take this week:

When I will take it:

ACCOUNTABILITY

Pair up with someone in the group. You do not have to share every detail, but if you are comfortable, share your next step and ask them to pray for you and check on you this week.

“I KNOW MY NEXT STEP.” Response: “THEN TAKE IT.”

Sometimes community is not someone taking the step for you. It is someone standing beside you while you take it.

CLOSING DISCUSSION

Go around the group and have each person complete ONE statement:

- Tonight God reminded me...
- The thing that challenged me most was...
- This week I am going to...

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank You for speaking to us and leading us. Give us wisdom to recognize Your voice and courage to respond when You speak. Where we need discernment, give us clarity. Where You have already given us direction, give us courage to obey. Help us stop waiting for the entire route when You have already shown us the next step. Give us faith to put our feet in the water. Remind us that our obedience is bigger than us and that there may be people connected to our yes. Help us encourage one another, pray for one another, and walk with one another as we LIVE SENT. In Jesus' name, amen.

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE: Take the step you identified tonight. If God has made the direction clear, TAKE THE STEP.