

Small Group Guide: Jesus Tests Our Faith

Opening Prayer

Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus tests his disciples to reveal their faith and areas of weakness.
2. Weak faith cannot withstand difficult circumstances.
3. God refines our faith through trials to make us more like Christ.
4. We need to see beyond our problems and limited resources to trust in God's power.

Discussion Questions:

1. In the sermon, we see Jesus testing Philip and Andrew. How did they respond, and why do you think Jesus chose to test them in this way?
2. The pastor mentions that "weak faith will never hold up under the weight of your circumstances." Can you share a time when your faith was tested by difficult circumstances? How did you respond?
3. How do you typically react when faced with seemingly insurmountable problems or limited resources? Do you tend to focus more on the problem or on God's ability to work?
4. The sermon highlights David's attitude towards testing in Psalm 66 and 26. How can we cultivate a similar attitude towards the trials in our lives?
5. What are some practical ways we can strengthen our faith so that it can withstand testing and trials?
6. The pastor warns against living in "willful ignorance" about our spiritual blind spots. How can we become more open to God revealing areas of weakness in our lives?
7. How does understanding Jesus' deity and miraculous power impact our faith and our approach to life's challenges?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, identify a current challenge in your life. Spend time in prayer, asking God to reveal how He might be using this situation to refine your faith.
2. Practice gratitude by listing the resources God has given you, even if they seem small or insufficient. Thank Him for these gifts and ask for faith to see how He might multiply them.
3. Choose a Scripture that encourages faith in God's power (e.g., Philippians 4:13, Matthew 19:26). Memorize it and recite it when facing doubts or challenges.
4. Ask a trusted friend or mentor to help you identify potential blind spots in your faith walk. Be open to their feedback and prayerfully consider areas for growth.
5. Look for opportunities to encourage others who may be going through trials. Share how God has worked in your life through difficult times.

Closing Prayer

Encourage group members to continue reflecting on the sermon throughout the week and to support one another in applying its teachings to their lives.