



Sermon Discussion Guide
Here in the In-Between: Essential Influence
Sunday, July 19, 2020
Based on Pastors Ashley, Nick, Jill's Sermon

Introduction

We're finishing a series of messages called *Here in the In-Between*. So much of life takes place in the tension between where we've come from and where we're going. Are you in an in-between place in your life? The good news is that God is with you right now, and we have an opportunity in the in-between space we've been given. In this fifth and last lesson, we learn that we can influence others by being compassionate, not controlling.

To watch this week's sermon before your group discussion, go to www.journeyoffaith.com/sermons

Share Your Story

1. Who or what has made the biggest influence on you, and why?
2. What's one inner thought you battle with that causes you to doubt the impact of the influence God's given you toward others?

Hear God's Story

1. Read 1 Peter 5:1-3. What's Peter saying here? Next, what would this look like realistically in those relationship circles you have in your life today?
2. Read 1 Peter 5:6-8. What's the relation here between humbling ourselves and giving all of our anxieties over to God? Next, what does that bring to mind for you?
3. Read 1 Peter 5:9-10. How can keeping the vantage point that Peter teaches here help us in our current quarantine season? And, how can God use this time to make us "strong, firm, and steadfast"?

Create a New Story

1. What's one thing you can do to be a more godly influencer to those around you?
(Ref. 1 Peter 5:1-3)
2. What are some strategic ways you can give your stresses and concerns to God?"
(Ref. 1 Peter 5:6-8)

Further Studies: Moving from Worry to Trust

In Matthew 6:25-34 Jesus taught His followers about how to combat feelings of worry. In verse 30 Jesus used the term “little faith” (ολιγόπιστος) to challenge His followers to not focus so much on human anxieties that they neglect focusing on Him and His provision.

In this passage, Jesus challenged them, and us today, to transform their little faith into complete trust. This is where the rubber meets the road of spiritual progress. If we do this, we’ll be able to deepen our relationship with God, with others, and with ourselves. Let’s look further into this foundational teaching of the spiritual life.

Read Jesus’ teaching in Matthew 6:25-34 straight through.

DISCUSS

1. Before we get into interpretation and application, what’s Jesus saying here?
2. The Greek word that Jesus used that we translate as “little faith” (6:30) is only used by Jesus in the whole New Testament, and is only directed at His closest disciples. What does it tell us about Jesus that He’d challenge the faith of those He cared for?
3. In 6:33 Jesus said to “seek first His kingdom and His righteousness.” It’s easy to just keep that a kind of head knowledge we say to go through the motions of Christianity. But, what does this actually look like?
4. What’s one thing from 6:25-34 that challenges you the most?
5. What one thing are you going to change or focus on this next week to move your tendency to worry towards a spirit of total trust in God?

For Parents: Repackaging for Youth

1. For those who have young children in the home, what are some ways you could teach this lesson to them that takes into account their age and learning level?

For questions about this curriculum, contact Pastor Matthew Jensen at matthew.jensen@journeyoffaith.com