

A PHILIPPIANS STUDY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

October 8, 2023

LIVING FAITH - Noemi Chavez

This Discussion Guide is designed to help you **think more deeply** about the sermon and **engage with others** through thoughtful conversation, biblical exploration and **allow God to work** in your life as you apply what you discover.

➤ CONVERSATION STARTER

What is the most notable good deed you have ever witnessed?

➤ EXPLORATION

Faith, much like love, can sometimes feel like an abstract word. It is our actions, how we live, that makes our faith observable. Having faith is not simply claiming to believe, faith is obedience in action.

James 2:14-18 (From your bible, read aloud)

What stands out to you from these verses?

Our words need to line up with our actions. We don't need more people talking about being a Christian. We need people living lives that reflect God's instructions.

Biblical Example - Abraham

Abraham was faced with a monumental decision. After 99 years of praying that God would give him a son, Isaac was born. But God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son as an act of obedience and sincerity of his faith.

If you are not familiar with Abraham's story, take a few minutes to read Genesis 22:1-19

God doesn't require Abraham to go through with the sacrifice of Isaac, but Abraham's willingness to be obedient paints the picture of a love that would require faith AND action.

While Abraham's story is extreme, we still need to pay attention. He knew that his son Isaac was a gift from God and he trusted God enough to be willing to give that gift back.

What have you sacrificed in the past year in order to live out your faith?

1 Corinthians 1:18 (From your bible, read aloud)

We just discussed the sacrifices each of us made in order to live out our faith over this past year. Chances are, there were people in your life who didn't understand the choices you were making. 1 Corinthians 1:18 explains why this happens. Faith is being willing to do what is hard, it requires action, not just good intentions.

Biblical Example - Rahab

Rahab was a woman who lived a difficult life of pain and deep brokenness. She lived in a city where the cultural expectations were all she had ever known, but she had heard about the Israelites and she

chose to believe in their God. She took a huge risk, one that her life literally depended on. She put her faith into action.

If you are not familiar with Rahab's story, take a few minutes to read Joshua 2:1-21

James 2:19-25 (From your bible, read aloud)

The faith James describes here is filled with hope. Both Abraham and Rahab chose to live out their faith boldly. We know their stories today, because they chose to be obedient to God in the most dire circumstances. Abraham is often referred to as the "Father of Faith" and Rahab is so important that she is listed in the genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1:5)

Neither of these people were looking for fame and recognition, they were simply responding to God in the reality of their daily lives.

Take a moment to think about your daily life, where is your faith put into action?

Mark 10:17-22 Read the following passage aloud

17 As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

18 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. **19** You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.'"

20 "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy."

21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

22 At this the man's face fell. He went away sad,

This man was faced with an opportunity to live out the faith he professed by following Jesus' command. We sometimes want to believe that following Jesus will make everything easier, more comfortable, and more joyful; sometimes this is true. However, we can't ignore the many examples we see throughout scripture to call us to live a faith-filled life of sacrifice.

Each of the examples we have looked at here call us to a radical reorientation of our lives. This requires a deep faith and a resolute commitment to keeping Christ at the center of everything we do.

Mark 10:27 Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

Has there ever been anything in your life that you were afraid God might ask you to sacrifice? If you are willing, share this with the group.

> TAKE AWAY

Living out our faith means more than just thinking the right thoughts. Living out our faith means acting upon what we believe. We can talk a lot about what we believe, but our actions must match up with our words if our life is going to reflect the love of God.

What are some current challenges you are facing that call for a deepening of your faith?

Take time to pray for one another that your faith and your actions would line up and would help you to grow closer to God this week.