

Small Group Guide: The New Life of Faith

Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus introduces a new system of faith and grace, replacing the old religious practices.
2. True faith recognizes our need, removes obstacles, realizes the source of healing (Jesus), and reaches out in action.
3. Faith is not just believing, but belief plus action - trusting and obeying Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon mentions three analogies Jesus used to explain the new system: marriage, fashion, and wineskins. Which of these analogies resonates with you most and why?
2. How do you think the woman with the flow of blood felt after 12 years of suffering? Can you relate to her desperation in any way?
3. The woman's faith led her to touch Jesus' garment. What does "reaching out in faith" look like in your life today?
4. Pastor mentioned that faith recognizes the need within ourselves. What spiritual needs do you currently recognize in your own life?
5. How does the idea of "faith is belief plus action" challenge or encourage your understanding of what it means to follow Jesus?
6. In what ways might we be tempted to "patch up" our old ways rather than fully embracing the new life Jesus offers?
7. The sermon emphasizes that Jesus offers a new system based on faith and grace. How does this differ from religious practices or self-improvement efforts?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, identify an area in your life where you need to "reach out and touch Jesus' garment" in faith. Share with the group next time how you acted on this.
2. Reflect on any "obstacles" that might be preventing you from fully experiencing God's presence. Make a plan to address at least one of these obstacles.
3. Practice explaining the concept of "faith is belief plus action" to someone else this week. Be prepared to share your experience with the group.
4. Spend time in prayer each day this week, asking God to reveal areas where you might be holding onto "old wineskins" instead of embracing His new work in your life.
5. Look for opportunities to share with others how your faith in Jesus has made a difference in your life, just as the woman's faith led to her healing.

Prayer Focus:

Thank God for the new life of faith He offers through Jesus. Ask for the courage to fully embrace this new system, letting go of old religious practices or self-reliance. Pray for each group member to experience a deeper, more active faith in their daily lives.