



# Killers of Faith - Part 1

## Group Leader Guide

### Opening Prayer

Begin with prayer, asking God to open hearts and minds to His truth and to help group members identify areas where selfishness may be hindering their faith.

### Ice Breaker (5-10 minutes)

Share about a time when someone's actions showed you they truly cared about you, not just their words. What made that moment meaningful?

### Worship (5-10 minutes)

- Praise You Anywhere (Brandon Lake)
- Gratitude (Brandon Lake)

### Watch Message

Watch the 13-minute sermon message together.

### Key Takeaways from the Sermon

- Love vs. Being Pleased: God's love for us is unconditional, but being pleased with us relates to the health of our relationship with Him.
- Faith is Essential: Without faith (confidence in what we believe demonstrated through action), it is impossible to please God.

- Belief vs. Faith:
    - Belief (pisteuo) = trusting in God's truthfulness and reliability
    - Faith (pistis) = confidence that produces action
  - Selfishness Kills Faith: When we make life about ourselves rather than God's purposes, we cannot live by faith.
  - Isolation is the Accomplice: Selfishness often leads to disconnecting from community and relationships, even while physically present.
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## Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message (15-20 minutes)

- What stood out to you most from this sermon? Why?
- How would you explain the difference between God loving you and God being pleased with you?
- The sermon states that 'our actions reveal our belief.' What does this mean practically?
- Read Hebrews 11:6 together. What does it mean to 'earnestly seek' God?

Personal Reflection (20-25 minutes)

- On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your current desire to seek God and His kingdom?
- In what ways are you currently fulfilling your purpose as 'salt and light'?
- How do you recognize selfish desires versus God's will?
- Where might isolation be showing up in your life right now?

Going Deeper (15-20 minutes)

- Read Matthew 16:24. What does it mean to 'deny yourself' in practical terms?
- Can you share an example of when putting others first brought you closer to God?
- How does our culture encourage selfishness and isolation?
- Why is community essential in fighting selfishness?

## Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose at least ONE of the following to practice this week:

- Re-engage in Relationship:
  - Reach out to someone you've been avoiding or neglecting
  - Have a vulnerable conversation with your spouse or close friend
  - Attend a church event or gathering

- Embrace Community:
  - Invite someone to coffee or a meal
  - Join a serving team at church
  - Be fully present at your next small group meeting
- Serve Others:
  - Meet a specific need in someone's life
  - Volunteer for a cause that benefits others
  - Practice daily acts of service at home
- Seek God's Kingdom First:
  - Start each morning asking God for His agenda
  - Pause before decisions to examine motives
  - Keep a journal of moments you chose God's will

## **Accountability Questions**

- What specific area of selfishness did God reveal to you?
- Which practical application will you commit to this week?
- Who in this group can check in with you about your commitment?

## **Memory Verse**

Hebrews 11:6 - "Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him."

## **Closing Prayer (5-10 minutes)**

Prayer Prompts:

- Confess areas where selfishness has taken root
- Ask God to reveal His purposes for your life
- Pray for strength to deny yourself and follow Jesus
- Ask for deeper community and authentic relationships
- Pray for faith that produces action

Group Prayer: Have each person pray for the person on their right, specifically asking God to help them overcome selfishness and grow in faith.

## **Before Next Week**

- Review your commitment and be ready to share how it went
- Continue memorizing Hebrews 11:6
- Pay attention to moments when you're tempted toward selfishness or isolation