

DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

A Life-Group guide for sermon discussion, personal reflection, and next steps



SWAT | FAITH BEFORE SIGHT | KELSEY SMITH | OCTOBER 25, 2026

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

As disciples, we're called not just to be informed but to be transformed into people who look more like Jesus—in our homes, our workplaces, and our communities. This guide helps you apply what we're learning at New Life Church to your weekly rhythms. Use it to engage in daily Bible reading, have meaningful conversations with your group, and take clear next steps in following Jesus.

WEEKLY SUMMARY

In **Acts 7:2–8**, Stephen points to Abraham to show that God was speaking and working long before there was a temple. His presence is not confined to a building. Abraham received a command and a promise, not a detailed roadmap. He obeyed before he saw the outcome, trusting God's word more than what he could see or possess.

Dan Smith reminds us that **waiting does not mean God is not working**. Abraham's family would experience suffering and delay, yet God's promises remained trustworthy. We cannot measure His faithfulness by our circumstances. His presence remains with us while we wait. The cross and the hope of eternity give us reason to trust God even when life does not go according to our plans.

01 God is not confined to what we've constructed.

Acts 7:2

02 Faith requires obedience without knowing the outcome.

Acts 7:3–5

03 God's promises remain trustworthy even through delays.

Acts 7:5–7

04 God will always be faithful—whether we get to see it or not.

Hebrews 11:13

RESOURCES

• [Sunday's Sermon](#)

• [Table Talk Podcast](#)

• [Download the New Life Church app](#)

KEY VERSE

“For we live by faith, not by sight.”

2 CORINTHIANS 5:7

GROUP DISCUSSION



Read Acts 7:2–8 together. Discuss trusting God before you can see the outcome.

01 GOD BEYOND OUR BUILDINGS

- **Acts 7:2.** God met Abraham before there was a temple. Where do you limit God to church activities? How could your faith become more visible in everyday life?

02 OBEDIENCE BEFORE OUTCOMES

- **Acts 7:3–5; Hebrews 11:8.** Abraham obeyed without knowing the destination. What security or old habit might God be asking you to leave? What is your next step?

03 TRUST THROUGH DELAYS

- **Acts 7:5–7.** The promise included delay and suffering. Where are you waiting? What might God be developing in you as you keep obeying without the outcome you hoped for?

04 FAITHFULNESS BEYOND SIGHT

- **Acts 7:8; Hebrews 11:13.** Abraham saw some promises fulfilled, but not all. How does this challenge measuring God's faithfulness by what you can see or possess?

05 ENDURE IN GOD'S PRESENCE

- **Hebrews 10:35–36.** How can God's presence sustain you when circumstances remain difficult? What daily practice or faithful action could help you keep doing His will while you wait?

06 KEEP YOUR HOPE IN JESUS

- **Isaiah 53:5–6.** Jesus bore our sins. How do the cross and the hope of eternity speak to your disappointments? What would trusting Him without a guaranteed earthly outcome look like?

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

KNOW GOD

Read Acts 7:2–8 and 2 Corinthians 5:7. Thank God that His presence goes with you beyond a building.

DISCOVER PURPOSE

Identify one clear step of obedience in this season. Take it without waiting for a complete roadmap.

FIND FREEDOM

Name a fear, habit, or need for control that holds you back. Bring it to God and a trusted group member.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Encourage someone who is waiting. Pray with them and share how God's faithfulness is shown in Jesus.

PRAYER GUIDE

Father, thank You that Your presence goes with us beyond a building. Forgive us for measuring Your goodness by our circumstances. Help us obey Your word before we know the outcome, remain faithful through delays, and trust You with what we cannot see. Thank You for Jesus, who bore our sins. Keep our hope anchored in You and in eternity. Amen.

CLOSING THOUGHT

“For we live by faith, not by sight.” — 2 Corinthians 5:7

Abraham received a promise, not a delivery date. Waiting did not make God less faithful. The cross and the hope of eternity give us reason to trust Him beyond the outcomes we can see. Take the next obedient step and leave the timing with God.