

## Small Group Guide: Growing in Faith Through Surrender Hebrews 11



### Summary:

This Message explores the importance of faith, surrender, and trusting in God's plan, even when it's uncomfortable or challenging. The speaker shares personal experiences from a missions trip to New York City, highlighting how stepping out in faith and fully surrendering to God's will can lead to personal growth and spiritual development. The sermon emphasizes that true faith requires action and a willingness to be used by God in ways that may not align with our own desires or comfort zones.

### Key Takeaways:

1. Full dedication to God requires motivations and desires that only a God-centered view can provide.
2. Faith is necessary to overcome worldly desires and act boldly for God.
3. Reading the Bible is crucial for growing faith and trusting God's promises.
4. Biblical heroes succeeded through faith, not their own abilities.
5. Surrendering to God allows Him to work through us and grow our faith.

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. The speaker mentions struggling with being comfortable serving in less glorious places, learning when to speak, and fears of musical performance. What areas of service or ministry do you find challenging? How might surrendering these to God change your perspective?

2. Reflect on Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." How does this definition of faith challenge or encourage you in your walk with God?

3. The sermon emphasizes that reading the Bible is crucial for growing faith. What practices have helped you engage meaningfully with Scripture? How has this impacted your faith?

4. Consider the examples of Abraham and Joshua in the sermon. How do these stories demonstrate the importance of trusting God's promises, even when circumstances seem impossible?

5. The speaker shares about praying for God to use his missions trip experience for growth. Have you ever prayed for God to stretch your faith? What was the outcome?

6. How does the idea that "apart from faith, none of the biblical figures succeeded in anything" challenge our modern notions of success and self-reliance?

### **Practical Applications:**

1. This week, identify one area of your life where you struggle to trust God fully. Commit to praying daily for increased faith in this area.
2. Choose a passage from Hebrews 11 to meditate on throughout the week. Journal about how the example of faith in that passage applies to your life.
3. Look for an opportunity to serve in a "background" role at church or in your community. Reflect on how this experience impacts your faith and view of service.
4. Share with the group next week about a time when you stepped out in faith recently, even if it was something small.
5. If you're not already, commit to a regular Bible reading plan. Consider using a study guide or devotional to deepen your engagement with Scripture.

### **Closing Prayer**

## **5-day Bible reading plan and devotional:**

### **Day 1: Surrendering to God's Will**

**Reading:** Romans 12:1-2

**Devotional:** In the sermon, we heard about the importance of surrendering fully to God's will. This passage in Romans echoes that sentiment, calling us to offer ourselves as "living sacrifices." Reflect on areas of your life where you might be holding back from God. What fears or desires are keeping you from fully surrendering? Remember that God's will for us is good, pleasing, and perfect. Today, consciously choose to align your desires with God's, trusting that His plans for you are far greater than anything you could imagine.

### **Day 2: Faith in Action**

**Reading:** Hebrews 11:1-6

**Devotional:** The sermon emphasized the power of faith, referencing Hebrews 11. As you read this passage, consider how faith is described as "confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." Think about the examples of faith mentioned in the sermon - Abraham, Moses, and others. How did their faith translate into action? Reflect on your own life. Are there areas where God is calling you to step out in faith? Remember, without faith it is impossible to please God. Today, take a small step of faith in an area where you've been hesitant.

### **Day 3: God's Presence in Suffering**

**Reading:** 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

**Devotional:** The sermon touched on personal struggles, including family illness. This passage reminds us that God comforts us in all our troubles. Reflect on times in your life when you've experienced God's comfort during difficult circumstances. How can you use those experiences to comfort others? Remember that our sufferings can draw us closer to Christ and equip us to minister to others. Today, reach out to someone who might be going through a tough time and offer them encouragement from your own experiences of God's comfort.

## **Day 4: Using Your Gifts for God's Glory**

**Reading:** 1 Peter 4:10-11

**Devotional:** The sermon mentioned overcoming fears to use musical gifts in worship. This passage reminds us that each of us has received a gift to use in serving others. What gifts has God given you? Are you using them fully for His glory? Reflect on any fears or insecurities that might be holding you back from serving. Remember, when we serve with the strength God provides, He is glorified through us. Today, look for an opportunity to use your gifts in a way that serves others and honors God.

## **Day 5: The Great Commission**

**Reading:** Matthew 28:16-20

**Devotional:** The sermon concluded with Jesus' Great Commission. As you read this passage, reflect on Jesus' authority and His promise to be with us always. How does this commission apply to your life? You may not be called to go to far-off lands, but how can you make disciples in your current context? Remember, evangelism isn't about our own abilities, but about relying on God's strength and presence. Today, pray for opportunities to share God's love with others, and for the courage to take them when they arise.