

STORIES OF FAITH

Palm Sunday - Trusting Obedience

Esther Grant

PREPARATION & PRAYER

Francis Chan, author & pastor said “Our greatest fear should not be of failure but of succeeding at things in life that don’t matter.” Father God, as we read your Word together, help us to see what matters to you

1: RESPONDING TO GOD

Sometimes our intentions and our actions don’t line up even when we feel a great sense of conviction about the right course of action. This is really well depicted in the story that Jesus tells in Matthew 21.

READ AS A GROUP: Matt 21:28-32

Did a particular word or phrase/verse jump out at you?

Take a moment to reflect on it and then share this with the group and why it struck you?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Can you recall a time when you knew that God wanted you to do something that you didn’t want to do?
2. In what ways do you resonate with the two sons in this story?
3. What message do you think Jesus is trying to convey in telling this story?

2. HEARING GODS VOICE

On Sunday I described my experience of “hearing God’s voice” as being aware of having thoughts that aren’t my own, which seem to carry extra weight and are sometimes accompanied by a physical sensation in my arms, like being held. Can you describe some of the different ways that you have experienced “hearing God”?

FOR DISCUSSION

- What are some of the ways that we can grow in confidence in recognising God’s voice and acting on what we hear?

3. TRUSTING OBEDIENCE

In Matthew 16: 24-26 Jesus talks about what following him will involve; that he is the leader and that the journey will involve self-sacrifice. Read these verses and sit with them for a moment and then discuss the challenges we experience in putting this sort of faith into practise.

FOR DISCUSSION

- What are some of the ways that we can grow in confidence in recognising God's voice and acting on what we hear?

PRAY IN PAIRS

- With another person in the group, share one prayer request you have for God.
- Once you've both shared, pray for each other.

