



SOUL SHIFT DISCIPLESHIP CLASS

Created to Dream: The 6 Phases God Uses to Grow Your Faith

Lesson 4 – October 7, 2023 | Led by Betty Vincent

From Dead End to Deliverance

“Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1 NKJV

God said, “Take your son ... and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering.” Genesis 22:2 NIV

What to Do When You Reach “Dead End”

While You’re Waiting for God’s Deliverance:

1. Remember what God can do.

The situation may be out of your control, but it’s not out of God’s control.

“Abraham believed in God who gives life to the dead and who creates something out of nothing.” Vs 17 (TLB)

When you face things that are out of your control, you need more than a positive mental attitude. You need faith in God.

“What is impossible with men is possible with God.” Luke 18:27

2. Rely on what God has said.

“When hope was dead within him, Abraham went on hoping in faith ... He relied on the word of God.” Vs 18 (Phillips)

How do you know when hope is dead? You start using the word “never.”

“While God was testing him, Abraham still trusted in God and his promises, so he offered his son Issac.” Hebrews 11:17 (TLB)

Issac spoke up and said to his father ... “Where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” Abraham answered, “God himself will provide.” Genesis 22:7-8 NIV

3. Face the facts with faith.

“Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead ... and Sarah’s womb was also dead. Yet he didn’t waver with unbelief.” Vs 19-20

Faith is not denying reality.

Faith is facing the facts without being discouraged by them.

"We fix our eyes ... on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." 2 Corinthians 4:8

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith." Hebrews 12:2 NIV

4. Expect God to deliver me.

What are you expecting God to do? God works in your life according to your expectations.

"According to your faith let it be done to you." Matthew 9:29 NIV

Abraham never doubted ... "He praised God for this blessing even before it happened. He was completely sure that God was well able to do anything he promised." Romans 4:20-21 TLB

The ultimate form of faith is thanking God in advance for what he is going to do. Abraham praised God for the blessing ,even before it happened.

"But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us ... he will deliver us ... We have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us." 2 Corinthians 1:9-10 NIV

Three Kinds of Deliverance:

1. Circumstantial deliverance.
2. Personal deliverance.
3. Ultimate deliverance (heaven).

The world hopes for the best, but Jesus is your best hope.

Jesus is our Savior, which means Jesus is our Deliverer.

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6 NIV

Jesus can take a hopeless end and turn it into an endless hope.

Living on Purpose:

1. What life experience came to mind as you went through the six phases God uses to grow your faith? Does anyone have a story to share of a time when God delivered you from a dead end?
2. How does remembering who God is and what he can do help you as our wait for his deliverance?
3. What promises from God encourage you when you are at a dead end?
4. What is the most meaningful lesson you have learned in this study? What step will you take today to start applying that lesson in your life?

Prayer Direction:

If you are in the dead-end phase of faith, call on the Lord as our Deliverer (see Psalm 18:2). Ask him to restore your hope and trust in him and to make a way where there is no way. Before you pray, thank God for the lessons in faith that he has taught you through this study.

Putting It into Practice:

Your story of faith can change someone else's life. Who do you know who needs to hear about the six phases of faith? Plan to share with them the faith-building lessons you have learned through this study.