

The Flame That Forms Us [Bold Faith Believes]

Discussion Guide

Summary

This sermon explores the theme of bold faith in the midst of doubt, using biblical examples to illustrate how faith and doubt often coexist in our spiritual journey. Jonathan discusses how even Jesus' disciples experienced doubt, and highlights stories like the woman with the bleeding condition and the father with the demon-possessed son to show that God responds to faith regardless of its strength. The message emphasizes that doubt is a normal part of faith development and that God is not afraid of or disgusted by our moments of doubt.

Intro Prayer

Lord, as we gather to discuss Your Word, help us be honest about our own struggles with doubt and faith. Open our hearts to understand how You can work through both our certainty and uncertainty. Guide our conversation and help us grow closer to You through our discussion. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's something you were initially scared to try but ended up being glad you did?

Key Verses

- Hebrews 11:1
- Hebrews 11:6
- Mark 5:25-34
- Psalm 121:5
- Mark 9:24

Questions

- Why do you think we often feel ashamed or embarrassed about our doubts in our faith journey?
- How does the story of the woman with the bleeding condition challenge our typical understanding of 'bold faith'?
- What does it mean that God is our 'shade at our right hand', or 'the Lord stands beside you as your protective shade'? How does this image impact your view of God?
- Can you relate to the father's prayer 'I believe; help my unbelief'? Share about a time when you experienced both faith and doubt simultaneously.
- How does knowing that Jesus' disciples also struggled with doubt encourage you in your faith journey?
- What's the difference between knowing about Jesus and actually reaching out to touch Him in faith?
- How can we support each other in our community when we're experiencing seasons of doubt?
- What practical steps can we take to strengthen our faith while acknowledging our doubts?

Life Application

This week, identify one area where you're struggling with doubt in your faith journey. Instead of hiding from it, bring it to God in prayer daily, asking Him to help your unbelief while choosing to trust Him despite your uncertainty.

Key Takeaways

- Bold faith can exist even in the midst of doubt
- God responds to faith regardless of how small or weak it might seem
- Jesus is not afraid of or disappointed by our doubts

- Faith is not something we generate on our own - it comes from God
- God stands beside us as our protective shade during difficult times

Ending Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for meeting us in both our faith and our doubt. Help us to press into You even when we're uncertain, knowing that You are our shade at our right hand. Give us the courage to be honest about our struggles and the wisdom to help others in their journey of faith. In Jesus' name, Amen.