UNSHAKEN

Groups

Small Group Discussion Guide

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UNSHAKEN

Small Group Discussion Guide

Based upon the book *Unshaken: Real Faith in Our Faithful God*
by Crawford W. Loritts, Jr.

This study will take you on a journey that will build your faith! Discover how to live a bold faith capable of enduring whatever the world throws your way. Over the next six weeks, we are going to grow together by committing to the following:

The Group – Attend small group regularly during this study.

The People – Connect and develop deeper relationships.

The Book – Complete the reading assignment before each group.

The Conversation – Follow each week's lesson in the Discussion Guide.

Reading Assignments

Unshaken Book

Assignments are to be read prior to small group and will be discussed during that particular session.

SESSIONS	READING ASSIGNMENTS	PAGES
Session 1	Chapter 1 – God Confidence Chapter 2 – A Done Deal	13 - 37
Session 2	Chapter 3 – The Certainty of Our Future Chapter 4 – Faith Is Obedience	38 - 63
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Unshaken

SESSION 1

Unshaken | Chapter 1

GOD CONFIDENCE

Scripture to Stand On

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

Let's Connect

It's been said that faith is like WiFi. It's invisible, but it has the power to connect you to what you need. How would you describe faith?

Talk It Out

We gain many benefits from having confidence. When we have confidence, what may appear improbable becomes possible. Confidence motivates us to move towards attaining our goals and achieving the exceptional. It gives us assurance and certainty in our abilities which strengthens our resolve to keep moving forward.

1. What abilities do you have in which you are confident you can do well? What differences do you experience when doing something with confidence as contrasted to doing something you are uncertain about?

2. When our confidence is in God, we are propelled to the heights of faith. We have confidence that all things are possible with God because we know who we have confidence in. What characteristics and attributes of God inspire and promote your confidence in him? Why does our view of God directly influence the strength of our faith?

3. Abraham had God-enduring, God-sustaining faith because of four keywords from Romans 4:16-21. They are **Based, Defies, Anchored** and **Strengthened**. Read Romans 4:16-21 and then discuss the questions below.

   • Abraham's faith in God was **based** on his confidence that God would do what he said he would do. Our confidence is based on God's Word–not on our ideas of what God should do. Are you certain that what you are currently standing in faith for is supported by the truth of God's Word? How do God's promises sustain your faith?

   • Faith **defies** circumstances. When Abraham considered his own body and Sarah's barrenness, he decided to believe God even though his circumstances made God's promise appear "unreasonable." When we believe God for big things, we acknowledge that our God will do what he has promised. What are we fearing when we try to make faith "reasonable"? How does this affect our faith?

• God is omnipotent. This means that he is "all-powerful." Abraham's faith was **anchored** in God's omnipotence. God's presence and power uphold and stand behind every promise he makes. Have you ever experienced a crisis in which God took a bad situation to use it for your good and his glory (Romans 8:28)? How was God's power revealed?

Because of God's omnipotence, he can deliver us and sustain us through anything we face in life. He may choose to deliver us by supernaturally changing our circumstances or he may choose to leave us in hard places while sustaining us with his power. How have you experienced both of these examples of God's omnipotence in your life?

• Abraham was **strengthened** in faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Our faith is tested as we wait for the fulfillment of God's promise while continuing to experience adversity and challenging circumstances. Just as Abraham gave glory to God as he waited, so should we actively worship him. What does worship accomplish while we wait?

Which of the four words used to describe Abraham's faith inspire you to have more confidence in God: based, defies, anchored, or strengthened? Why?

Walk It Out

God changed Abraham's perspective before he changed Abraham's circumstances. Abraham grew stronger in faith because he was fully confident that God was able to do what he said. He didn't allow his circumstances to overshadow God's promise but stayed anchored in God's power. Abraham gave glory to God as he waited. The time between our current reality and the fulfillment of God's promise is designed to transform us as well. What can you specifically do to honor God as Abraham did?

Pray It Out

Father, thank you for being our Omnipotent God—the source of all power. Our confidence is in you. We believe the truth of your Word and have faith in you to honor Your promises. We agree to turn our "waiting room" into a place of praise and worship. May you receive all glory and honor as you fulfill your promises and transform us in the process. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Pray for any specific needs of the group.

Write It Down

Use this section to write down your thoughts and what God is speaking to you.

Unshaken | Chapter 2

A DONE DEAL

Scripture to Stand On

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Hebrews 8:37-39 (NKJV)**

Let's Connect

When was a time when someone showed you deep compassion and love like Jesus?

Talk It Out

Along with our confidence in God comes security that God is always present. Because of the work of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we are in him and he is in God. This means that not only are we together now and for eternity, but God is always with us to meet every dream, challenge or circumstance he allows to come our way. God releases every resource we need when we place our faith in him.

1. Have you ever been challenged by the fear of losing God's love? Have you ever believed that you are required to say and do the right things to keep God's approval? Read Romans 8:31-39. How does this portion of Scripture strengthen your faith?

2. Romans 8:31-39 provides three pertinent questions that assures us of God's continued presence.

   - **The Security Question: "Do I have what I need?"**

     Romans 8:31 says, *If God is for us, who can be against us? It is impossible for us not to have what we need when God is for us. Our God is the All-Sufficient God. Romans 8:32 says, He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?* What are the benefits of focusing on the truth that God is for us instead of focusing on the circumstances that come against us?

   - **The Legal Question: "Am I guilty?"**

     Romans 8:33 says, *Who shall bring any charge against God's elect?* As God's elect, we are God's chosen ones. God chose us by purchasing us with the blood of Jesus Christ. When we place our faith in Christ, we are no longer guilty of any charge. We are declared righteous in the sight of God and not under condemnation. As believers, is it possible for the accusations from Satan, others, and even ourselves to alter our eternal destination and position in Christ?

We are no longer held hostage to the guilt and sins of our past. Because Christ died for our sins on the cross and rose again to life, we are forgiven and made alive together with him. How does this truth influence your worship and gratitude towards God?

- **The Relationship Question: "Will I be abandoned?"**

  Romans 8:35 reads, *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?* Notice that it is Christ's love for us that determines we will never be abandoned—not our love for Him.

  Romans 8:38-39 tells us that nothing we could ever encounter in life has the power to separate us from Christ's love. Death is a transition into God's presence. Circumstances and supernatural powers cannot separate us from Christ's love. The future cannot change Christ's love for us. We are overcomers and victorious in all things in Christ because he loves us. Is there ever a reason to fear any of the things listed in Romans 8:38-39? Why or why not?

Walk It Out

We've learned from this chapter that because of God's love for, we will always have what we need, we are no longer guilty, and we will never be abandoned. The question of our security has been forever settled. How will your life look different as a result of believing the truths presented in this chapter?

Pray It Out

Father, thank you for providing everything for our salvation. We give you praise and glory for what was accomplished by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Because of what your Son accomplished, we are victorious and more than overcomers. We believe that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ. We stand on the truth that we are loved, we are declared righteous, and we are eternally yours. We love you and praise you. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Pray for any specific needs of the group.

Write It Down

Use this section to write down your thoughts and what God is speaking to you.

Next Week's Readings

The Certainty of Our Future and Faith Is Obedience, pages 38-63

Unshaken

SESSION 2

FAITH IS THE CERTAINTY OF OUR FUTURE

Scripture to Stand On

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. **1 John 5:4 (NKJV)**

Let's Connect

Have you ever watched the rebroadcast of a sporting event for which you knew the outcome? How did knowing the outcome change the way you watched it?

Talk It Out

Life is filled with circumstances and events that we do not expect. We often refer to them as life's curve-balls. These words communicate that though life is headed in one direction, something happens that changes its course in an instant. Life doesn't look the same. A family member dies. You lose the job you've held for years. The relationship falls apart. The dream you've held for so long seems to vanish from possibility. Events such as these can lead us to uncertainty and fear. However, God's Word calls us to live courageously even in the face of fear. Psalm 23:4 states, *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil. For you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me*. We can rest assured that though we may face our own valley of uncertainty, the Lord is with us, calling us to faith.

1. Share a time in your life when the unexpected changed things in an instant and led you into greater faith in God.

2. Hebrews chapter 11 recalls the stories of many saints who by faith trusted the certainty of God over the uncertainty of their circumstances. How do their examples compel us to trust God in our circumstances?

3. God places dreams and goals in our hearts and he calls us to exercise faith towards reaching them. However, exercising faith is not a free pass to receive what is outside of his will. *It is the response to what God wants done and is initiating in and through our lives* (pg. 43). How do you determine whether a desire in your heart was put there by God or by yourself?

4. The Apostle Paul was a man called by God and given the mission of bringing the Gospel to the Gentiles. In Romans 8:38-39, he writes, *For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.* We see in these words Paul's absolute confidence in God. Take a look at your life. Do your words and actions testify to your confidence in God. How can you better demonstrate faith in God's sufficiency?

Walk It Out

Over the next week, exercise your faith by taking a step towards a dream or goal that God has placed in your heart. Share that step with the group.

Pray It Out

Father, thank you that the certainty of faith does not depend on me but is found in you. Help me to rest in your abundant provision and exercise faith in any areas of uncertainty. Lord, I trust you. I trust in your purposes and plans. Your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in your faithfulness. Amen.

Pray for any specific needs of the group.

Write It Down

Use this section to write down your thoughts and what God is speaking to you.

FAITH IS OBEDIENCE

Scripture to Stand On

"For we live by faith, not by sight." **2 Corinthians 5:7 (NIV)**

Let's Connect

How does knowing that we live, act and respond before an audience of one (pg. 63) draw you to obedience?

Talk It Out

In the book of Genesis and retold within Hebrews chapter 11, we learn from Abraham that faith is obedience and furthermore, faith is obedience even when we don't have all of the answers. In Genesis 12:1, God tells Abraham, *Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you*. There is no further explanation–just go to the land that I will show you. This is risky obedience. "Go" meant for Abraham to leave all that he had ever known for a place he did not know. Yet, notice in verse 4 how Abraham responds to God's call to leave. It says, "So Abram [Abraham] went, as the LORD had told him...." This is a hallmark of obedience. He fully trusted God in obedience and lived by faith before seeing his destination.

1. What are some areas of your life in which you find it easy to live by faith? What are some areas in life in which you find it hard to live by faith? Why?

2. *Obedient faith will make us do extraordinarily difficult things* (pg. 61). Sometimes we don't know our destination and sometimes, we must act before we have the resources required to get there. When we don't see the resources we need, logic tells us to sit idly instead of walking and trusting in obedient faith, knowing God is our source. When have you had to take a step forward in faith before you had the resources you "needed"? How did that experience turn out?

3. Second Peter 3:9 tells us *The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promises as some count slowness, but is patient towards you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance*. Abraham and his wife Sarah know about waiting on the Lord's timing very well. God promised Abraham and Sarah a son and they waited over 20 years between the promise and its fulfillment. During that time, they experienced much tension and even grew impatient to the point of disobedience. While waiting may lead to impatience, it also...*causes us to appreciate and savor God's sovereign control over our lives* (pg.59). When has the Lord's "slowness" been for your good and how has it allowed you to *appreciate and savor God's sovereign control over our lives* (pg.59)?

4. Years after the birth of Abraham's son, Isaac, God called Abraham to do the unthinkable and sacrifice him. The promised son. The son he waited so long to receive. The very son Abraham had trusted God to provide. Even so, Abraham set out to obey God. And just before he laid a hand on Isaac, God called to Abraham and told him not to. God was testing Abraham. We learn that we must be willing to offer back to God whatever he first gives us, even if it is the fulfillment of a promise. We must hold nothing back. Is there something in your life that you have not or will not give up to God? Why?

Walk It Out

Take an inventory of defining moments in your life. What can you see in the story God is telling through these moments that draw you to trust and obey Him?

Pray It Out

Father, thank you that you make known to me the path of life. Help me to recognize when I am self-dependent so that I can put my full trust in you. I fixate my eyes on you, and I see your all-sufficiency. May I walk by faith and not by sight. Amen.

Pray for any specific needs of the group.

Write It Down

Use this section to write down your thoughts and what God is speaking to you.

Next Week's Readings

Faith Is Destiny, pages 64-75

Unshaken

SESSION 3

FAITH IS DESTINY

Scripture to Stand On

... looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **Hebrews 12:2 (NKJV)**

Let's Connect

What was a goal that you have set in your life that you were able to see come to completion? What did you learn through the process?

Talk It Out

Have you ever thrown a pebble into a pond? What happens? The impact of the pebble hitting the water creates a series of ripples that spread outward and beyond the point of contact. Great faith creates ripples of impact that carry us into our destiny. **Legacy faith** is a result of a faith that's anchored in the Father and looks beyond the current reality to God's desired result. Legacy faith is contagious, it has a destination, and it has the power to influence the next generation.

1. To continue in faith, we must trust God's character even when things do not turn out the way that we expect them to. What are your family members, friends, and associates learning about faith from watching you?

2. We are compelled in our Christian journey to believe and trust in God for things that we may never get to see in our lifetime. God's faithfulness drives us forward even while suffering and in pain. His faithfulness leads us to trust and obey Him–even when we don't understand exactly how He is working in our situations. The heroes of faith in Hebrews 11 experienced this first hand. Hebrews 11:13 reads, *All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth*. Share a time in your life when you took a step of faith in God's Word even though the outcome seemed unclear and impossible.

3. At times, it is easy to identify the beginning and the end of a vision; however, the process in between is what can appear a bit ambiguous. The journey is often filled with unexpected challenges that reveal our true purpose and motive. For example, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. fought for equal rights but did not live to see the progress of which we are partakers of today. Dr. King had a vision from God about the future and he embraced his role. Why is a vision of what "ought to be" essential for helping us act with faith in the "present"?

4. Kirk Cameron was a successful actor of the popular 80's sitcom *Growing Pains*. Because Kirk chose to pursue Jesus, he was able to surrender his dream of acting to follow a different God-given dream. After leaving mainstream Hollywood, Kirk began using his influence and ministry to help people share their faith and live out a gospel-centered marriage and family. When have you placed more hope in your dream than in God who gave you the dream? When have you released a dream to follow a new direction from God?

5. In Jeremiah 32, Jeremiah is so confident God will return his people to their homeland that Jeremiah buys a field in Jerusalem while still in captivity. Is God asking you to take a step of faith? What is it?

Walk It Out

Our faith is built through communion with the Lord and engaging in his Word. This week take the time to find two Scriptures that encourages you in the area your faith is being tested. Speak the promises of the Scriptures daily.

Pray It Out

Father, I thank you for every promise and dream that you have stirred within me. I surrender any dreams that I have placed ahead of you and ask that you resurrect any God-given dreams that I have abandoned because I lacked faith. Lord, I put you first in my life. Show me how to live a life of faith and leave a legacy of faith that transforms my life, my family, my friends, and my community. Amen.

Pray for any specific needs of the group.

Write It Down

Use this section to write down your thoughts and what God is speaking to you.

Next Week's Reading

Faith Is Mission, pages 76-92

Unshaken

SESSION 4

Unshaken | Chapter 6

FAITH IS MISSION

Scripture to Stand On

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire. **Hebrews 12:28-29 (NKJV)**

Let's Connect

If time and money were not an option, what would you love to do each day?

Talk It Out

Faith is called "faith" because it confronts that which stands in the way of God's plan and assignments for our lives. Faith is not only our response to the challenges we face but also movement towards fulfilling God's plan for us. Faith is all about overcoming and pressing through opposition so that God gets the glory through our lives.

1. Faith is called "faith" *because it confronts that which stands in the way of God's plan and assignments for our lives*. Faith is not only our response to the challenges we face but also movement towards fulfilling God's plan for us. Faith is all about overcoming and pressing through opposition so that God gets the glory through our lives.

    - **Vision:** God reveals his vision for us.
    - **Opposition:** The vision is threatened.
    - **Intervention:** God rescues us.
    - **Celebration:** God is glorified.
    - **Transformation:** We are changed.

2. Do you have a clear sense of your calling in life? If so, share it with the group.

3. Some assignments from God are beyond our natural capacity. Often times, obstacles, distractions, and inconveniences may arise as we try to fulfill our assignments, yet we know they are what God has for us and to retreat would be disobedience. In these instances, faith is our only option. Is there anything you are unwilling to sacrifice in order to experience God's best for you?

4. Disobedience comes from allowing our faith to become diminished by the roadblocks we face on our assignments. Hebrew 11:23-31 reveals how our heroes of faith overcame obstacles "by faith". Restricting God to a pattern can be a subtle roadblock that hinders our mission. Reflect on ways God has directed your path in the past. How does this knowledge encourage you to trust him for your future?

5. Our background and past may hold us back from our mission. You may feel God cannot forgive the sins of your past. Rahab, included in the Hall of Faith, refused to allow her immoral past to hinder her mission. ...*faith is the path to freedom and deliverance, no matter what we've done or where we've come from*. *Faith breaks the chains of bondage to sin and shame* (pg 91). Is it difficult for you to walk in forgiveness from past sins?

   Romans 8:1 proclaims, *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.* We can believe this promise over our lives. What is in your background that you need to believe and declare Romans 8:1 over?

6. Which of the following roadblocks are preventing you from moving toward your purpose and mission? Explain.

   • Future • Comfort • Security • Restricting God to a pattern • Disobedience
   • Dread • My background

7. Gratitude is a great antidote for self-reliance and security in your abilities. Take a moment to list the things God has done for you recently and then share a couple of them with the group.

Walk It Out

Reflect back on the roadblocks you deal with most frequently. Ask God to show you Scriptures that will encourage you in walking out this blocker of faith that will also propel you into the next season in your calling. Over the next 21 days, speak these Scriptures over your life.

Pray It Out

Father, I thank you for the calling you have over my life. Please guide me in overcoming opposition so I can fully walk in all your ways so that you get all the glory. Lord, on this day I put all my faith in you. Open my eyes and ears to all that you have for my life to complete the mission of the gospel for your kingdom.

Pray for any specific needs of the group.

Write It Down

Use this section to write down your thoughts and what God is speaking to you.

Next Week's Reading

Faith Is Endurance, pages 93-106

Unshaken

Session 5

Unshaken | Chapter 7

FAITH IS ENDURANCE

Scripture to Stand On

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. **Hebrews 12:1 (NKJV)**

Let's Connect

When was a time in your life that you had to push through challenges? What made you keep trying?

Talk It Out

In this life, we will face challenges. Suffering for God's sake is a gift and an honor, and it attracts God's heart and attention. Faith is not meant to rid our lives of hardship. Having faith in our Almighty God allows us to go through adversity in a way that's encouraging to others. Faith in God allows us to give him the glory–no matter what. The cloud of witnesses mentioned in Hebrews 12:1 experienced adversity. They are encouraging us to endure in our faith, even through hardship, challenges, adversity, and suffering.

1. Faith is always tied to obedience. Sometimes we do not get to see the fruit of our faith while here on earth. Because God is faithful to us, he allows our faithfulness and obedience to benefit others. Our faith is strengthened when we see others praising God in the midst of physical suffering, glorifying him through emotional pain, and honoring the Lord through courageous acts of forgiveness. How can we endure the suffering that we experience in this life with joy and confidence in God? Name someone you know who demonstrates this regularly.

2. Romans 8:17 reads, *and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.* Why do you think suffering comes before glory?

3. To endure in your faith means to remain obedient to God–even when you don't see the fruit of your faithfulness. Share a current situation you are experiencing where although fruit is not evident, you are choosing to stand firm in faith. Sometimes others can see fruit before we do. Ask a friend for perspective.

4. We have to reflect and evaluate our lives to make sure that there is not anything holding us back from enduring in our faith. Prayerfully read Hebrews 12:1-2. What "stuff" do you need to get rid of to run with endurance?

Walk It Out

Our faith is built in the midst of hardship when we choose to look to God instead of our struggles. This week make a point to reach out and encourage someone you know who may be going through their own hardship. Encouragement can come in the form of sharing a Scripture verse, a conversation over coffee, a card, or an act of service. Commit to doing something.

Pray It Out

Father, I thank you for never leaving me or forsaking me. I know that you are with me through anything that I experience in this life. I surrender my will to yours. Keep my faith intact as I go through hard times. Show me how to stay faithful and live in your grace. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Pray for any specific needs of the group.

Write It Down

Use this section to write down your thoughts and what God is speaking to you.

Next Week's Reading:

Don't Panic and Christ Our Courage, pages 107-135

Unshaken

Session 6

Unshaken | Chapter 8

DON'T PANIC

Scripture to Stand On

Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise. **Hebrews 10:35-36 (NKJV)**

Let's Connect

Take a moment to reflect on a time when God provided for you. Were there obstacles (i.e., fear, anxiety, doubt,) that could have kept you from persevering in your walk with God? How did you overcome those obstacles?

Talk It Out

Hebrews 10:35 directs us to maintain confidence in God through faith and trust in his Word. When faced with fear, disbelief, and apprehension, our hearts tend to run away from God, causing us to lose our confidence. But those who remember the dependability of God's promises find their hope in God's strength. From that hope, we find the strength to endure. In Deuteronomy 8, Moses reminded the Israelites to reflect on the mighty works of God and how he sustained their needs during their forty years of wandering in the wilderness. In order for us to keep our confidence during times of struggle, there are four things we need to remember.

1. **God's Leading.** By allowing God to guide our steps, we are permitting him to prepare us for the journey ahead. Seasons of prosperity and success have a way of driving us toward self-dependency. His direction leads us to dependency on him, not ourselves, other people or circumstances. Was there a time in your life when you stopped letting God lead? What happened?

   Recall a time God led you, clearly and faithfully. How did he do it? What were the circumstances?

2. **God's Testing**. We as humans see our weaknesses and failures as a lack of competence and strength. His tests enable us to be dependent on him alone, to demonstrate our obedience, and to prove that our faith is real. James 1:12 reads, *Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. What can tests and trials accomplish in the life of a believer?*

3. **God's Provision**. God reminded the Israelites how he had provided for them in the wilderness in Deuteronomy 8:3-4. His "provisions" during those years reminded them of God's loyalty and devotion to his people. God is our provider–whether in the wilderness or in the Promise Land. What needs has God provided for you that reminded you of his supernatural power? How is he providing for you right now?

4. **God's Discipline.** Our Father's "discipline" is a response to his love for us and his desire that we may reflect his nature. As they were stepping into the Promised Land, God reminded the Israelites of the importance of remembering the lessons taught to them from his corrections. God's discipline protects us from the hardships we may face in the future from wrong decisions. Nothing destroys our confidence more than disregarding the wisdom from God's "discipline". What are some specific ways that we regard lightly the discipline of the Lord?

Why do we remember? When we learn the lessons of the past, we can move toward the future God has for us. God wants to produce in us unconditional obedience, undivided loyalty, and uncompromising dependency on him. What past lessons have increased your obedience, loyalty, or dependency on God?

Walk It Out

This week take time to remember how God lead you through your own wilderness experiences. Write down these "sacred milestones" of testing, of God's provision, and of his discipline. Begin to thank him for his incredible faithfulness of the past. Finally, begin to declare his unchanging faithfulness over any current and future hardships.

Pray It Out

I trust in you, Lord, with all of my heart. I lean not on my own understanding, but in all of my ways I acknowledge you, and you shall direct my paths. I am thankful Lord that your desire for me is to walk in your ways. I choose to believe you, I choose to follow your lead, to be dependent on you, and I choose to be obedient. I arise in faith today above my challenges and circumstances. In Jesus' Name. Amen

Pray for any specific needs of the group.

Write It Down

Use this section to write down your thoughts and what God is speaking to you.

CHRIST OUR COURAGE

Scripture to Stand On

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. **John 15:5 (NKJV)**

Let's Connect

Share a time when you had to trust and rely on someone else to get through a difficult situation or accomplish a challenging goal.

Talk It Out

Our faith journey is the expression of the life of Jesus Christ through us. It demonstrates our complete dependence on the living, all-powerful Savior. The more we surrender of ourselves, the more vibrant our faith becomes. The richer our faith becomes, the more fruit is produced in our lives.

1. A great example of a life lived in complete surrender is that of Andrew van der Bijl, a Dutch-born believer known as "Brother Andrew." It was in 1955 when Brother Andrew began the dangerous mission of smuggling Bibles into communist Eastern Europe. One of his many precarious adventures recounts a time when Brother Andrew approached a Romanian border patrol station with a car full of illegal Bibles. While waiting in line, he observed that all of the drivers ahead of him were forced to place the entire contents of their cars on the ground for inspection. After asking the Lord what to do, Brother Andrew came up with the bold idea to spread the Bibles on the car seat in plain sight. When it came to his turn, the patrol guard kept his knee on the door preventing Brother Andrew from exiting the car. To his amazement, the guard glanced at his passport and abruptly waved him through the checkpoint. Incredible! Brother Andrew later became the founder of the organization, Open Doors, dedicated to serving the persecuted church worldwide. Because he remained in total reliance on Jesus, he was able to change the lives of countless people for Christ.

   How does the story encourage you to live a courageous life for God?

2. *We want to be flavored by Jesus, but not filled by Jesus* (pg 125). In what ways do you want to enjoy the benefits of Jesus without giving your life to him completely?

3. When we commit to a life of surrender out of a heart of love and gratitude, we no longer desire sin in our lives. With surrender comes the willingness to trust God with every area of our lives. In which areas do you need to trust God fully?

4. After studying this lesson, how would you "define" faith? How would you "describe" Christian faith to an inquisitive friend?

Walk It Out

Jesus is living his life through us. God wants our lives to be the biography of Jesus. Below are four Christ-exalting decisions we make along our journey. Which of these four decisions is God speaking to you about? Why? Ask God to reveal to you a clear next step you need to take this week.

1. Start with Christ
2. Surrender Our Well-Being to Christ
3. Serve Like Christ
4. Be Satisfied with Christ

Pray It Out

Jesus, just as you fully surrendered your life for my sake, I want to live my life fully surrendered to you. I know that apart from you, I can do nothing. And you have shown me that when I abide in you, all things are possible! Lord, you always remain faithful. Teach me how to abide in you in all areas that I might continue this journey with the courage and faith that glorifies you. Amen.

Pray for any specific needs of the group.

Write It Down

Use this section to write down your thoughts and what God is speaking to you.

WEEKEND
SERVICE TIMES

BATON ROUGE
Sunday 9:30am & 11:30am

GULF COAST
Saturday 5pm
Sunday 9:30am & 11:30am

LITTLE CREEK
Saturday 5pm
Sunday 9:30am & 11:30am

SOUTH SHORE
Saturday 5pm & 6:45pm
Sunday 8am, 9:30am & 11:30am

Online.ChurchoftheKing.com
Saturday 5pm
Sunday 9:30am & 11:30am