



Note to Leaders: Every Link is Different. Don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group

SERMON SYNOPSIS

Imagine if you really did believe there was a God who knew your name, who was a personal God, who heard your personal prayers, and that you could absolutely have perfect confidence in all the time. In other words, imagine what it would be like to have PERFECT faith. It's not that everything always goes your way, but you just had this unbelievable faith that God was with you, around you, working through you and seeing you through. Wouldn't your life be better?

That's where God wants to take us. God wants you to have a BIG FAITH in him. And there are 5 things God uses to grow your faith:

1. **Practical teaching** shows us where we are and where we need to go.
2. **Providential relationships** allow us to hear from God through others.
3. **Private (spiritual) disciplines** tune our hearts to God's heart.
4. **Pivotal circumstances** force us to look at God.
5. **Personal ministry** enables us to experience God's power.

The church's responsibility is to provide **SPACES** for the above 5 things to happen. But you need to respond so that your faith will grow. And these are the 6 ways you can respond to God's call to grow your faith:

1. **Gather** regularly come to the gathering of faith and be exposed to practical teaching.
2. **Get involved** allow you to experience God's power as you serve others.
3. **Groups** belong to an authentic small group where you can encourage one another.
4. **Grounded** have a daily habit of prayer and reading the bible.
5. **Give** Be a good steward of God's resources through percentage giving.
6. **Go** Invest your life in others and invite them to come to church

God wants you to grow. The church is providing the spaces for you to grow. If you respond by doing the above, it is impossible for you not to grow.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think so many Christians no longer attend church today? (More than 182 million people are churchless Christians, according to the World Christian Encyclopaedia.)
2. Read Proverbs 14:4 and Hebrews 10:23-25. Using these verses, how would you encourage someone who no longer attends church?
3. Have someone read Matthew 7:24-28. This parable follows the Sermon on the Mount. Why do you think Jesus concluded his sermon with this parable? Have you ever applied a specific teaching of Scripture that, looking back, prepared you for an unexpected storm?
4. Is church attendance a priority to you and your family? Why or why not?
5. What other things stood out to you in this week's sermon?
6. What are one or two things you would like to apply in your life from the sermon? How will you make sure you make the application in your life? Are there any steps you can put in place starting today?

MOVING FORWARD

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock." Matthew 7:24

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"Unapplied truth is like paint. It doesn't do anybody any good until it is applied." Lane Jones