

Self-Study & Care Group Guide

Introduction

God has given you the gift of right relationship with Himself. Righteousness, right-standing-with God, empowers you to live free from the influence of sin, while enjoying life on God's terms. Faith is what makes all this possible.

Ice Breaker

Looking back on your experience of the Sunday Service and the notes from the teaching, was there something general or specific (a point, verse, or comment) that caught your attention, made you excited, challenged you, or raised a question?

Part 1

Read Isaiah 30:15-18. Was there ever a time where you attempted to fix a problem on your own, only to discover that your efforts made things worse? What lesson did you learn?

God is calling his people to live by faith. Faith requires humble repentance and restful dependence on Him.

What characterizes those who refuse to live that way, and what radiates from the lives of those who do?

Let's be honest. We're not always good at admitting our faults or our need for God's help. It's encouraging to know that God is far more dependable than we are. What do you find hopeful about verse 18?

Part 2

Read Romans 1:17 and James 2:14-17. Faith can be difficult to understand and apply. On one hand, faith requires complete trust and confidence in what God has done, and what he continues to do. On the other hand, faith demands a response. Living faith is shown by active obedience.

There seems to be a faith that waits for God and a faith that works with God.

How do you know when to wait for God, and how do you know when God is calling you to work something out? Can you do both at the same time?

Is there a situation you're currently facing that is stretching your faith? Consider the following:

- ⇒ A sin issue that is not yet conquered..
- ⇒ A relationship that needs restoration.
- ⇒ A need that is unfulfilled.
- ⇒ A question that is unanswered.
- ⇒ Anything else.

What is God's part and what is your part in that situation?

Close In Prayer.

Thank God that you have right-standing-relationship with him through his son Jesus. Ask him to strengthen your faith, and to help you to know when to wait, and when to work.

Application

Read and meditate on Hebrews 11. There are many people in the Bible who learned to live by faith. Be encouraged in your faith as you consider this account of their lives.