

## MAKING DISCIPLES - LESSON 5 APPLICATION

### The Significance of Faith

Because faith is an essential element in life-transformation, those who disciple others should understand its importance and choose to live daily by its principles.

 **REMEMBER:** Believers must be willing to embrace change in their lives in order to grow in their relationship with Jesus. Take time to review the notes from this week's lesson with the purpose of becoming familiar with reasons that people may avoid change.

This will equip you to:

- Better recognize the possible reluctance to change by each person you disciple, and
- Help you be prepared to train them to welcome change by applying the principles of faith.

 **READ:** Hebrews 11:1-6

 **WRITE:** Why is it impossible to please God apart from faith?

 **ACTION:** Because you desire to live a life pleasing to God, please stop here and ask Him to reveal to you any circumstances that might cause you to live by sight rather than by faith and your reasons for doing so.

 Write these reasons below (e.g. fear, pride, doubt, desire for control, peer pressure).

 Since faith is developed through consistent belief and trust in biblical truth, use your Bible concordance to find Scripture references that address reasons you struggle to walk by faith. (Write them below.)

 Then, be diligent in setting these truths to memory. This will allow you to exchange your human perspective (**sight**) with a godly perspective (**faith**).

 Practice consistently walking by faith by **believing, trusting,** and **acting** on truth.

Learning from examples of those who have chosen to walk by faith should help us to live increasingly faithful lives and, in turn, benefit those we train.

 Read each account of the examples of the heroes of our faith. Then, answer the questions below, while asking God to show you what He wants you to understand and apply.

 **THOUGHT PROVOKING:** Have you noticed how taking time to be specific with your answers reveals more direct personal application? This can also be an effective tool in making disciples.

 **Hebrews 11:7**

-  What is the difference between holy, reverent fear and man-made fear?
-  How should your responses change when you operate under reverent fear rather than fear of man?

 **Hebrews 11:8-12**

-  On what did Abraham choose to focus?
-  Consider for a moment your daily routine. How does your focus resemble that of Abraham's?
-  What changes would need to take place in your life to cause you to consistently live by faith rather than by sight? (Be specific.)

 **Hebrews 11:13-19**

-  In what specific ways might others say that your lifestyle of walking by faith is strange or out of place when compared to those who live by the world's standards?

 **Hebrews 11:20; Genesis 27:27-40**

A person walks by faith by believing and trusting in God's Word regardless of the outcome.

-  Are there times in your life when considering the potential outcome of a situation causes you to postpone acting on faith? (Explain.)
-  What changes would need to take place in your life to help you become more immediate in stepping out in faith? (Be specific.)

 What would be the benefits of acting in immediate faith?

 **Hebrews 11:21; Genesis 47:29-31, 48:8-20**

God's plans often differ from ours. Joseph's life was not what he or his father Jacob had envisioned for him, and, as Jacob blessed Joseph's sons, it was not what Joseph had in mind.

 Are there times when your plans prevent you from being open to God's direction for your life?

 Do you have tendencies to run ahead of God or manipulate circumstances to fit your personal desires?

 What changes would need to take place in your life for you to consistently choose God's way rather than your own path? (Be specific.)

 **Hebrews 11:22; Genesis 50:24-25; Romans 10:17**

Even at the end of his life, Joseph focused on the faithful promises of God. Faith is based on biblical truth. Therefore, when a person chooses to study, believe, and trust in God's Word they are nurturing their faith.

 Consider, for a moment, your schedule. How will you use daily activities to be intentional in nurturing the faith of those around you this week?

 **Hebrews 11:23-28**

Moses is a great example of the unlimited power of God being demonstrated through a life of faith. Notice how each verse reflects a new chapter in Moses' journey.

 Using these verses, list words and phrases that describe Moses' choices to live by faith.

Each new chapter in our lives presents us with the same choice: whether or not to live by faith.

 List below the ways in which you are intentionally living by faith.

 **Hebrews 11:29; Exodus 14:10-28**

Sometimes God will lead us to difficult circumstances in order to test our faith. It is in these situations that we realize what we really believe to be true about the power of God's Word and His character.

 Is it your habit to avoid or look for ways to escape adversity? \_\_\_\_\_ (Explain.)

 What changes would need to take place in your life in order for you to stand firmly by faith on the truth of God's Word and trust in His character to see you through? (Be specific.)

 **Hebrews 11:30; Joshua 6:1-21; Isaiah 55:8-9**

Sometimes God will ask us to do things that may not make sense to us or those around us.

 Is it difficult for you to obey God when you have unanswered questions about the direction He is leading or the purpose He is trying to achieve?

 In considering obedience to God, do you also consider what others may think of you or how they may respond to your choice to obey?

 If you answered yes to either of the above questions, what does your hesitation to obey say about your view of Almighty God and your trust in Him?

 What changes would need to take place in your life for you to fully rely on God's instructions and leading? (Be specific.)

 **Hebrews 11:31; Joshua 2:8-11, 6:22-25**

 Do you ever doubt that God can use you because of past sin?

The enemy will work hard to tempt you to invest in thoughts of inadequacy making you ineffective for God's kingdom, rather than encourage you to invest in thoughts that reflect your true nature in Christ.

 Ask the Lord to enable you to recognize temptations to invest in thoughts that reflect the past and to help you avoid those temptations by standing on truth. By doing so, you will be living by faith!

 **FISHING FOR MEN: Hebrews 11:32-40**

Is it your habit to count the cost of obedience more than the blessings of it?

 What effect could this have concerning your discipleship efforts? (Be specific.)

 Are you willing to allow God to work in your life in such a way that it exceeds your greatest expectations and human capabilities regardless of the cost?

- ➡️ Would others say that you desire that Christ would get the glory for the work He accomplishes in you?
- ➡️ We are each making choices throughout the moments of our day. Knowing that life is made up of a series of moments, how will you encourage those you disciple to walk, moment by moment, by faith?

### The Significance of Applying Truth

#### 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

 In these verses, Paul provides us with an effective method for being victorious in spiritual warfare.

1. First, practice **recognizing** the various sources of information you encounter each day.
2. Then, ask the Holy Spirit to enable you in **discerning** which information reflects truth and which does not.

If the information encountered mirrors God's truth, then we should invest in it by living accordingly through considering its possible application. However, if the encountered information fails to mirror truth, we should refuse it. In doing so, we are choosing to take it captive, making it incapable of having any power or effect in our lives.

 Practice doing the same with personal thoughts and emotions by taking each claim that opposes Christ captive and exchanging it with truth, making it obedient to Christ prior to investing in it.

 Further consider the input of those close to you. Even though family members and friends may think they have your best interest at heart, unless their guidance lines up with biblical truth it is merely personal opinion or theory. Since a person will be in error by investing in anything other than biblical precepts, be careful to consider all counsel in light of truth.

- ➡️ Using simple terms, how will you explain to others the importance of taking thoughts and emotions that oppose Christ captive?

 **TO ENCOURAGE:** Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (**1 Peter 1:8-9**)