

PERSISTING IN FAITH STUDY GUIDE WEEK 5

Welcome and Open in Prayer

Introductions – Share something funny that happened this week

Review Key Elements to “50 Days of Faith”

1. Sunday Services – Sermons
2. Weekly Memory Verses
3. Daily Devotional Guide
4. Weekly Small Groups
5. “How My Faith Has Grown” Form

Review Sunday’s Message

Parable of the Persistent Neighbor

Luke 11:1-13

What was said that helped you understand faith better from Sunday’s service?

What was important or spoke to you?

Memory Verses

Week 1

“Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to God must first believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.”

Hebrews 11:6

Week 2

“God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power at work within us.”

Ephesians 3:20

Week 3

“I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.”

Philippians 4:13

Week 4

“So always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”

I Corinthians 15:58

Week 5

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

Galatians 6:9

Nehemiah

What do you know about Nehemiah?

What are some examples of Nehemiah's faith in God?

Read Nehemiah 1:1-11

Do you have Faith that Expects, or do we limit what God can do? Share a time when you trusted God to do something that only God could do.

Nehemiah recognized his own limitations. He knew that only God can change a man's heart, especially a King's heart, so he prayed and left it in God's hands. Too often, instead of expecting God to work in our situation, we try to work things out ourselves by manipulating people & circumstances. We run ahead of God, we scheme to get things to work our way and we end up getting in God's way.

What if, instead of getting the King's permission and assistance, Nehemiah had devised his own scheme to go to Jerusalem & organize the people to rebuild the walls? If he had gone on his own, he would have had a very difficult time being able to trust God in other things, such as the opposition and discouragement that came up when Tobiah was trying to stop the rebuilding. By trusting God to prepare the way, Nehemiah went to Jerusalem with the permission, funding, & protection of the king. When we run ahead of God, we stand naked & defenseless before our enemies, without the armor & protection of God.

Faith that is Genuine is Faith that Expects. It expects God to be God, in His full power and glory.

Was there ever a time when you needed greater faith because you were limiting what God could do?

What is there in your life that you need to finish?

Close in prayer:

"The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!'"
Luke 17:5

Open prayer, silence or aloud.