

SCRIPTURE CARD GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

"STRONGER FAITH + FERVENT REVIVAL= MORE POWER?" JANUARY 28

SERIES OVERVIEW:

Biblical truth matters for a myriad of reasons... it is certainly for the power of the Gospel to save souls, but as well biblical doctrine reaches into the health of mind and spirit in faith communities. Mental and spiritual health, and Christian care and concern can be shaken and experience deep harm when biblical doctrines are erroneous. In this series we will address how often in American Christianity a buffet of doctrines suiting our desires are selected, resulting in confusion and pain, and can even distance us from Jesus Christ. However, true biblical teaching that takes in the whole counsel of God's Word, comforts us, strengthens us, and reassures us of the goodness and faithfulness of Jesus Christ.

Follow the directions below for a guided group discussion with a friend, in a family, small group, etc. Grab a Scripture Card (printed or electronic) and simply follow steps from 1 to 6 on this page and the next.

1

PRAY

About 1 minute

Open in prayer. Consider including a time of quiet reflection listening to the hymn, "In Christ Alone".

2

BIG IDEA

A minute to read

The strength and power of faith is found in whom our faith is placed. It is found in Jesus Christ.

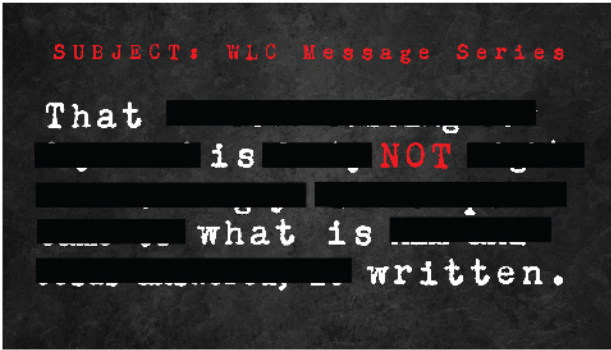
"Theology of Glory" inaccurately considers that stronger faith and more fervent revival result in a more effective declaration. "Theology of the Cross" sees faith's power is trust as it clings to grace in the righteousness of Christ.

3

CONNECT

About 10 minutes

Consider a time you hoped you could be self-reliant, and yet later realized that you were fully dependent on God instead. What was that experience like for you? What did you learn about yourself and God?



January 28, 2024

"You don't have enough faith," Jesus told them. "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible." - Matthew 17:20

Reflect

Read the full passage in your Bible - Matthew 17:14-21.

What is something that is grabbing your attention from the passage and why?

What do you think Jesus is getting at regarding faith in this passage?

Do a quick assessment of your life...how much faith has God given you? What is your faith focused on?

4

DISCIPLE LIFE DISCUSSION

About 45-50 minutes. Read the Scripture above and discuss the questions there. Additional questions below.

Read also Mark 9:17-29. The boy's father did not need to believe more emphatically, but needed to bring him to Jesus in trust, in his cry for help, and even in his doubts. It is not the quantity of our faith that is important, but rather in whom our faith is placed. How does this provide hope and encouragement for you?

Read Romans 5:1-11. We have been made right with God by grace through faith because of what Jesus Christ has done for us. Describe in your own words why this is good news. List the benefits or blessings given to us through Jesus in this passage. Which one do you want to hold on to this week and why?

Read Hebrews 12:2. God is the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. As you consider the week ahead, how can you keep your eyes on Jesus rather than on yourself?



DISCUSSION HELP:

Use follow-up questions to take the discussion deeper. Guide answers to be honest and real.

Can you say more about that?

How have you seen that play out in your life?

What does that stir up in you?

Has anyone else had a similar thought or experience?

What might God be inviting you to do?

5 PRAY:

About 15 minutes

Read the prayer prompts and allow for a time of reflection.

Pair up. Share prayer requests with your partner based on the prayer prompts below. Pray now for your partner and the prayer requests shared.

THE [DISCIPLE] LIFE

Pray

Talk to God about what you noticed from the last question under Reflect.

Hebrews 12 talks of fixing our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Ask God for faith to see Jesus afresh and to help you focus on him this week.

Thank God that faith is a gift from him and that he loves to give good gifts.

Live It Out

INVITATION: Spend time with God by reading his word every day this week, asking God to strengthen your faith. If you're unsure where to start, read a few verses from the book of John each day.

CHALLENGE: In addition to this, invite God to show you someone you could encourage to spend time with God by reading his word. Maybe you even do this together.

**Jesus, thank you for inviting me
into this LIFE of following you today!**

6**LIVE IT OUT:**

About 2 minutes

Read the "Live It Out" section and invite the group to take the steps noted.