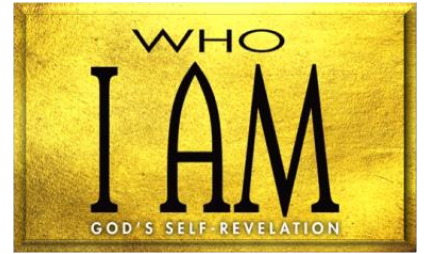


Budget Increase!?!



CASE STUDY 10

"I don't understand what the deacons are thinking," John said to his wife Ruth. "Raising the church budget by twenty percent in this economy is crazy!"

"I know," Ruth replied. "Our taxes have gone up and now the church expects us to pay more too."

"Well, we don't have any extra cash lying around," John stated. "Someone else is going to have to increase their giving. And when I look around the congregation, I have no idea who that would be."

1. Describe the faith that John and Ruth have when it comes to the Lord's work.
2. Is a lack of faith a serious sin? Explain.
3. Read Numbers 14:32–38. How seriously did God take Israel's lack of faith?
4. In what areas of your life have you shown a lack of faith?
5. Demonstrate faith in God by spending time with Him in prayer and praising Him often.