The Rhino, The Bison, & The Lamb: Week 2 Discussion Guide

Discuss:

- Can you think of other areas of your life where weakness becomes a strength? Or at least the recognition of your weakness leads to strength? (5 min)
- How much of your own faith do you attribute to your effort and how much do you attribute to God's gift? (5 min)
- Have a volunteer read each of these verses from the screen exchanging "faith in Jesus Christ" with "faithfulness of Jesus Christ". (5 min)
- What difference does this make in your understanding of these verses? (5 min)

Scriptures:

- 1 Corinthians 2:3–5 (NIV) "I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power."
- Romans 12:3 (NIV) "For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you."
- Romans 3:22 (NIV84) "This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ [replace with Faithfulness of Jesus Christ] to all who believe."
- Galatians 2:16 (NLT) "Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ [replace with Faithfulness of Jesus Christ], not by obeying the law. And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be made right with God because of our faith in Christ, not because we have obeyed the law. For no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law."

 Galatians 3:22 (NIV84) "But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ [replace with Faithfulness of Jesus Christ], might be given to those who believe."

Challenge:

If faith is a gift of God in addition to your own exercise, what could you do to posture yourself to receive a greater portion of faith from God? (10 min)

Prayer:

Read <u>James 5:13-16</u> aloud. Point out that the prayer of faith can heal the sick, whether that sickness is physical or spiritual. Encourage people to share physical sickness needs with the group and pray over them but also encourage them to text confessions of sins they need to be healed from. Men should have a male's number to text and women a female's number. Each should reply to the text with a prayer for that person.