

Small Group Guide: Now, But Not Yet - Deuteronomy 34
Chapters of Faith - Part 8, 06/07/26

Icebreaker Question: Have you ever worked hard toward a goal but didn't get to see the final outcome? How did that make you feel? Looking back, what did you learn from that experience?

Highlights:

- God is the Prize – Not spiritual highs, success, or achievements
- Obedience matters more than outcomes – Faithful obedience brings joy regardless of results
- We can trust promises we haven't yet experienced – God's timing and plan are bigger than ours
- Focus on who's next, not what's next – Invest in the next generation of disciples

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Exodus 34:1-5. Moses was prevented from entering the Promised Land because he misrepresented God's holiness when he struck the rock in anger instead of speaking to it as God commanded. Why do you think God took Moses' disobedience so seriously? a) In what ways do we, as Christians, represent God to others in our daily lives? b) Can you think of a time when your words or actions may have misrepresented God's character? What did you learn from that?
2. Read Psalm 23 and Colossians 3:1-4. How do these passages challenge our typical understanding of what it means to be "blessed"? a) Does your relationship with God feature prominently in your hopes and dreams, or is God simply someone you hope will help you achieve your plans? b) What would it look like practically for you to live as though 'God is the prize' and 'Christ is your life' this week?
3. Read Hebrews 11:4-13. What does it mean to 'live by faith' if we don't receive in our lifetime the blessing God's promised us? a) Why is it so hard for us to find joy in obedience when we don't see the results we hoped for?
4. We experience God's kingdom now, but not in all its fullness. Jesus purchased complete healing and restoration, but we await its fullness in eternity. How does understanding the 'now but not yet' tension help us make sense of unanswered prayers or unmet expectations? a) Where in your life are you currently experiencing this tension between what God has promised and what you're experiencing now? b) How can we maintain hope and trust in God's promises when we're living in this 'in-between' time?
5. Read Exodus 33:11, Deuteronomy 34:9 and 2 Timothy 2:1-7. Moses invested in Joshua, and Paul invested in Timothy. They prepared the next generation of leadership. Mission-focused people invest in others rather than focusing solely on personal preferences. How much of your life is currently focused on yourself versus investing in the next generation? a) What would it look like for you to become more concerned about discipling young believers than about your personal preferences? b) Who is one person God might be calling you to invest in or disciple? What's one practical step you could take this week?

Prayer:

- to find satisfaction in God alone
- to remain faithful in obedience even without seeing outcomes
- to trust His promises in the 'now but not yet'
- to invest in the next generation of disciples