

RICK WARREN



**DARING
FAITH**

THE KEY TO MIRACLES

"According to your faith will it be done to you."

MATTHEW 9:29

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SESSION ONE

BUILDING A LIFE OF FAITH

CHECKING IN

1. If this is your group's first meeting, or if you have any new group members, be sure to introduce yourselves. Review the *Small Group Guidelines* on page 74 of this study guide.
2. Share with the group what you are hoping to get out of this *Daring Faith* study.

MEMORY VERSE

“According to your faith will it be done to you.” **MATTHEW 9:29 (NIV)**

WATCH THE VIDEO LESSON NOW. FOLLOW ALONG IN YOUR OUTLINE.

BUILDING A LIFE OF FAITH

“According to your faith will it be done to you.” **MATTHEW 9:29 (NIV)**

You get to choose how much God blesses your life and uses you in his plan for the world. Daring faith is the key to fulfilling God’s will.

Where there is no faith, there are no miracles. Daring faith is the key to miracles in your life.

- **Faith is _____ when I don’t see it.**

Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. **HEBREWS 11:1 (NIV)**

- **Faith is _____ when I don’t understand it.**

It was by faith that Noah built an ark to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about something that had never happened before. **HEBREWS 11:7 (NLT)**

It was faith that made Abraham obey when God called him to go out to a country which God had promised to give him. He left his own country without knowing where he was going. **HEBREWS 11:8 (TEV)**

- **Faith is _____ when I don’t have it.**

It was faith that made Abel offer to God a better sacrifice than Cain’s. Through his faith he won God’s approval . . . **HEBREWS 11:4 (TEV)**

- **Faith is _____ when I don’t feel like it.**

It was by faith that [Moses] left Egypt without fear of the king’s anger; he held to his purpose like someone who could see the invisible. **HEBREWS 11:27 (NJB)**

- **Faith is _____ before I receive it.**

By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days. **HEBREWS 11:30 (NIV)**

If you wait until after a prayer has been answered to thank God, that's gratitude, but it's not faith. Faith is thanking God that the answer is already on its way, even before you see it.

- **Faith is _____ if I don't get it.**

God is more interested in your character than your comfort. He is more interested in making you holy than making you happy. So sometimes he gives you the ability to handle trials instead of removing them from your life.

The world was not worthy of them . . . These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better. HEBREWS 11:38–40 (NIV)

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. ROMANS 10:17 (NKJV)

These trials are only to test your faith . . . So if your faith remains strong after being tried in the test tube of fiery trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day of his return. 1 PETER 1:7 (TLB)

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

Please don't feel pressured to discuss every discovery question. It's okay to choose the questions that are right for your group. The point is not to race through the session; the point is to take time to let God work in your lives.

- On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being “nonexistent” and 10 being “absolutely unshakeable,” how would you rate the strength of your faith today?
- Of the six facets of faith Pastor Rick described, which one do you want to strengthen first and why? What practical step can you take this week to move in that direction?
- Who do you know that demonstrates strong faith? What lesson can you learn from their example?
- How have you seen God do something extraordinary, even miraculous, in your life or in the life of someone you know? How has that experience impacted the way you think about faith?

Worship: Faith is thanking God that the answer is already on its way, even before you see it. What do you need to begin thanking God for today?

Fellowship: Who do you know who needs to have their faith built up? Why not invite them to join your group? It's not too late.

PRAYER DIRECTION

If there are more than eight people in your group, we recommend that you break into sub-groups of three or four people by gender. This will give everyone ample time to share and pray together. If praying in a group is new or uncomfortable for you, we encourage you to start by praying single sentence prayers. Don't worry about how fancy you sound. God isn't looking for eloquence. He just wants honesty. Talk to God like you talk to a friend. Give everyone a chance to pray, but don't insist on it. Over time, you will all feel much more comfortable praying together.

- Pray for each other's prayer requests. Be sure to record them on the *Small Group Prayer and Praise Report* on page 75 of this study guide. Commit to pray for each other's requests every day this week.

SESSION TWO

EXPECTING THE BEST

CHECKING IN

1. In our last session, you rated the strength of your faith on a scale of 1 to 10. Did anything happen this week that increased your faith to a higher number?
2. Share a verse or insight that was especially meaningful to you in your *Daring Faith* daily devotions this past week.

MEMORY VERSE

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. **ROMANS 8:28 (NIV)**

WATCH THE VIDEO LESSON NOW. FOLLOW ALONG IN YOUR OUTLINE.

EXPECTING THE BEST

Faith assures us of things we expect and convinces us of the existence of things we cannot see. **HEBREWS 11:1 (GW)**

Faith is not just optimism or positive thinking. Faith is the confident assurance that God is in control of the future, and that he plans what is best for my life because he loves me.

“I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.” **PSALM 32:8 (NLT)**

- **When I expect the best it _____ God.**

“This day the Lord will hand you over to me, and I’ll strike you down and . . . the whole world will know that there is a God!” **1 SAMUEL 17:46 (NIV)**

“Expect great things from God, and attempt great things for God.”

— William Carey

- **When I expect the best it _____ my ability.**

- **When I expect the best it _____ others.**

IF I WANT TO EXPECT THE BEST FROM GOD, I MUST:

- _____ **every morning.**

In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation. **PSALM 5:3 (NIV)**

- _____ **throughout the day.**

Though the wicked hide along the way to kill me, I will quietly keep my mind upon your promises. **PSALM 119:95 (TLB)**

I’ve banked your promises in the vault of my heart . . . **PSALM 119:11 (MSG)**

Let’s keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. [God] always keeps his word. **HEBREWS 10:23 (MSG)**

- _____ **even when things look bad.**

O my soul, don't be discouraged. Don't be upset. Expect God to act! For I know that I shall again have plenty of reason to praise him for all that he will do. **PSALM 42:11 (TLB)**

• **_ other believers.**

I'm a friend and companion . . . of those committed to living by your rules. **PSALM 119:63 (MSG)**

Let us not give up the habit of meeting together . . . Instead, let us encourage one another all the more. **HEBREWS 10:25 (TEV)**

Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. **HEBREWS 10:24 (NIV)**

Without faith it is impossible to please God. **HEBREWS 11:6 (NIV)**

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- What Goliath are you up against right now? How has learning about the power of expecting the best in faith encouraged you to approach that giant in a different way?
- David developed a daily spiritual routine by tuning in to God, thinking on his promises, trusting God's love, and talking with other believers. Which of these four disciplines is easiest for you? Which one is more difficult and why? What practical step will you take this week to begin strengthening yourself in that area of spiritual discipline?
- When you expect the best in faith, it honors God, increases your ability, and encourages others. Share an experience when you expected the best from God and how your attitude encouraged another person.
- What is the difference between biblical faith and positive thinking?

LIVING ON PURPOSE

- Ministry: Who do you know that is facing a Goliath right now? How can you encourage them this week with the truths you learned in this session? Send them a text or email right now and tell them you are praying for them. Then make a note in your calendar to give them a call, pay them a visit, or send them an email of encouragement this week.

- Who has been a VIP—Very Inspirational Person—in your life? How have they encouraged you in your faith? Send them a thank you note or email this week.

PRAYER DIRECTION

- Faith is the confident assurance that God is in control, and that he plans what is best for your life because he loves you. Before you pray for your requests, spend a few minutes thanking God for his power—“God is in control,” his wisdom—“he plans what is best for your life,” and his love—“because he loves you.”
- Pray for each other’s prayer requests. Be sure to record them on the *Small Group Prayer and Praise Report* on page 75 of this study guide. Commit to pray for each other’s requests every day this week.

DIVING DEEPER

- Read the *Daring Faith* daily devotions for days 8 to 14 in this study guide.
- Read the Memory Verse on page 18 every day this week as part of your quiet time. See if you can memorize it before your next group meeting.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Talk about how your group would like to handle urgent prayer requests that may come up between meetings.

SESSION THREE

STRETCHING YOUR IMAGINATION

CHECKING IN

1. In the Living on Purpose section last week, you thought of a person you would encourage with the lessons you are learning about faith. Does anyone have a follow-up story to share?
2. Share a verse or insight that was especially meaningful to you in your *Daring Faith* daily devotions this past week.

MEMORY VERSE

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him. 1 CORINTHIANS 2:9 (NLT)

WATCH THE VIDEO LESSON NOW. FOLLOW ALONG IN YOUR OUTLINE.



STRETCHING YOUR IMAGINATION

*With God's power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine. **EPHESIANS 3:20 (NCV)***

What are you asking? What are you imagining? Are your dreams limiting what God can do in your life? The question is not “Who do you think you are?” The right question is “Who do you think God is?” Let the size of your God determine the size of your dream.

- **You must let go of _____.**

Doubt your doubts and believe your beliefs. Doubt is always a choice.

*Anyone who doubts is like a wave in the sea, blown up and down by the wind . . . They should not think they will receive anything from the Lord. **JAMES 1:6–8 (NCV)***

*“Be bold and strong! Banish fear and doubt! For remember, the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” **JOSHUA 1:9 (TLB)***

TWO CAUSES OF DOUBT

1. _____ **your abilities**

*When they measure . . . and compare themselves to themselves, they show how foolish they are. **2 CORINTHIANS 10:12 (GW)***

If God only used perfect people, nothing would ever get done.

2. _____ **your failures**

If you focus on your past mistakes and failures, you will miss out on what God wants to do in the present and in your future.

*Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. **PHILIPPIANS 3:13–14 (NLT)***

God uses people with checkered pasts. What matters is not where you have been, but where you are headed today.

• **Look for** _____

“I promised Moses I would give you this land, so I will give you every place you go in the land.” JOSHUA 1:3 (NCV)

“Every one of you knows . . . [that] God has given you all the good things that he promised. Every promise he has made has been kept; not one has failed.” JOSHUA 23:14 (TEV)

THREE PROMISES FROM GOD

What does God promise if you say, “Lord, I want you to use my life for your purposes?”

1. God promises _____

“No one will be able to stand up against you.” JOSHUA 1:5 (NIV)

2. God promises _____

“Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.” JOSHUA 1:7–8 (NIV)

3. God promises _____

“[I] will be with you wherever you go.” JOSHUA 1:9 (NIV)

“Always remember what is written in [this book]. Study it day and night to be sure to obey everything that is written there. If you do this, you will be wise and successful in everything.” JOSHUA 1:8 (NCV)

God’s promise of success is not based on your ability. It is based on your commitment to his Word.

• **Lean on** _____

“No one will be able to defeat you all your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forget you.” JOSHUA 1:5 (NCV)

Who or what are you leaning on for strength?

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. PROVERBS 3:5-6 (NIV)

• **Launch out in** _____

Then Joshua issued instructions to the leaders . . . to tell the people to get ready to cross the Jordan River. JOSHUA 1:10 (TLB)

What is your Jordan River? What is the barrier in your life that you think you will never get over? What is standing between you and God's dream? Courage is not the absence of fear. Courage is moving ahead in spite of your fear.

God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently working within us. EPHESIANS 3:20 (MSG)

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- Is your dream big enough for God? Are you pursuing your dream or God's dream for your life?
- Does the idea of God having a dream for your life excite you or frighten you? Explain your answer.
- "Believe your beliefs and doubt your doubts. Doubt is the enemy of God's dream for your life." What doubts do you need to dump so God can use you?
- Courage is moving ahead in spite of your fear. God is waiting for you to take a step of faith so he can bless you with a miracle. What step of courageous faith do you need to take this week to pursue God's dream?

LIVING ON PURPOSE

- **Discipleship:** Joshua 1:8 tells us that if we remember the Word, study the Word, and obey the Word, we will be wise and successful. How will you prioritize and protect your daily time in the Word this week so that you can experience the richness of God's promise? Share practical suggestions with your group.

PRAYER DIRECTION

- Are you ready to stretch your imagination? 1 Samuel 3:9 (NIV) says, “*Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.*” Ask God to show each of you the next step he wants you to take to fulfill his dream for your life.
- Pray for each other’s prayer requests. Be sure to record them on the *Small Group Prayer and Praise Report* on page 75 of this study guide. Commit to pray for each other’s requests every day this week.

DIVING DEEPER

- Read the *Daring Faith* daily devotions for days 15 to 21 in this study guide.
- Read the Memory Verse on page 29 every day this week as part of your quiet time. See if you can memorize it before your next group meeting.

SESSION FOUR

TAKING THE INITIATIVE

CHECKING IN

1. We're halfway through this study of *Daring Faith*. What is the most meaningful lesson you have learned in our study so far?
2. Share a verse or insight that was especially meaningful to you in your *Daring Faith* daily devotions this past week.

MEMORY VERSE

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. **PHILIPPIANS 4:13 (NKJV)**

 **WATCH THE VIDEO LESSON NOW.
FOLLOW ALONG IN YOUR OUTLINE.**



TAKING THE INITIATIVE

Have you been waiting for God to do something in your life? Maybe God is waiting for you to do something first.

Show me your faith without doing anything, and I will show you my faith by what I do . . . Faith that does nothing is worth nothing. JAMES 2:18–20 (NCV)

When you take the initiative and step out in faith, you can hold on to God's promise that he will give you the strength to do what he is asking you to do.

- **Obey God** _____ .

If there is ever a time that you really ought to be in a hurry it's when God tells you to do something, whether you feel like it or not.

I will quickly obey your commands. PSALM 119:32 (NCV)

Without delay I hurry to obey your commands. PSALM 119:60 (TEV)

What are you pretending God isn't telling you to do? If you want the blessing of God on your life, you must take the initiative and obey God immediately. Delayed obedience is disobedience.

- **Obey God** _____ .

Partial obedience is disobedience.

Lord, you gave your orders to be obeyed completely. PSALM 119:4 (NCV)

Your job is not to decide whether [God's] law is right or wrong, but to obey it. JAMES 4:11 (TLB)

The oldest temptation is not lust, lying, or gluttony. It is the temptation to doubt God's Word. Every sin starts with doubt.

Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. PROVERBS 3:5 (MSG)

- **Obey God** _____ .

Obey him gladly. PSALM 100:2 (TLB)

I enjoy obeying your commands. PSALM 119:47 (NCV)

Loving God means doing what he tells us to do. 1 JOHN 5:3 (TLB)

God measures your love by your obedience.

If you love me, obey my commandments. JOHN 14:15 (NLT)

• **Obey God** _____ .

I am determined to obey you until I die. **PSALM 119:112 (TLB)**

Just tell me what to do and I will do it, Lord. As long as I live I will wholeheartedly obey. **PSALM 119:33 (TLB)**

We must be sure to obey the truth we have learned already. **PHILIPPIANS 3:16 (NLT)**

If you are waiting for God to give you direction, and it's just not coming, ask him this question: "Lord, what have you already told me to do that I am not doing?"

Faith is like a muscle. It only grows when you exercise it by taking the initiative and stepping forward.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- Review the four points of Pastor Rick's message. Which one do you need to work on most?
 - ♦ Obey God immediately, without delay, argument, or excuse.
 - ♦ Obey God completely, not picking and choosing the parts you like.
 - ♦ Obey God joyfully, with a pleasant attitude.
 - ♦ Obey God continually, not on and off or only when you feel like it.
- Before we look forward, let's look back: Has God already told you to do something that you are not doing? For example, do you need to get baptized? Do you need to begin tithing? Do you need to begin a daily quiet time with God? Do you need to forgive somebody or ask forgiveness? What is it for you? Two or three of you share with your group the step of obedience you need to take.
- Now let's look ahead: As you have prayed about stretching your imagination and getting God's dream for your life, what step of faith do you think God wants you to take? For example, are you facing a career decision? Do you need to share your faith with a lost friend or loved one? Is God telling you to get involved in a ministry or an outreach at church? What does daring faith look like for you? Two or three of you share with the group what you believe God is asking you to do.

LIVING ON PURPOSE

Ministry: Take an inventory of the gifts and abilities God has given you. How could they be used to serve others in your church or community? Ask God if there is something he wants you to do for him, and then take the initiative to act on it this week. What will be your first step? Take a few minutes to discuss this with your group, then give it more thought in your quiet time tomorrow.

PRAYER DIRECTION

- Begin your prayer time by reading the following verses aloud as a group:

*Just tell me what to do and I will do it, Lord. As long as I live,
I'll wholeheartedly obey.* **PSALM 119:33**

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. **PHILIPPIANS 4:13**

- Pray for each other to take the steps of obedience and initiative that God is calling you to do.
- Pray for each other's prayer requests. Be sure to record them on the *Small Group Prayer and Praise Report* on page 75 of this study guide. Commit to pray for each other's requests every day this week.

DIVING DEEPER

- Read the *Daring Faith* daily devotions for days 22 to 28 in this study guide.
- Read the Memory Verse on page 41 every day this week as part of your quiet time. See if you can memorize it before your next group meeting.

SESSION FIVE

FACING YOUR FEARS

CHECKING IN

1. In the “Living on Purpose” section of session four, you were encouraged to take a step toward getting involved in a ministry at the church or an outreach in the community. Does anyone have a follow-up story to share?
2. Share a verse or insight that was especially meaningful to you in your *Daring Faith* daily devotions this past week.

MEMORY VERSE

*With God's power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine. **EPHESIANS 3:20 (NCV)***

WATCH THE VIDEO LESSON NOW. FOLLOW ALONG IN YOUR OUTLINE.

FACING YOUR FEARS

Life is all about taking risks. How do you take risks in faith rather than caving in to fear?

- **The Principle of _____ : Get the Facts.**

Every prudent man acts out of knowledge. **PROVERBS 13:16 (NIV)**

Wise people think before they act. They do all they can to fully understand the risk they are about to take.

“Get the facts at any price.” **PROVERBS 23:23 (TLB)**

The facts may be scary, but there is nothing more frightening than ignorance.

- **The Principle of _____ : Count the Cost.**

Don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first getting estimates . . . Or what king would ever dream of going to war without first sitting down with his counselors and discussing whether his army of 10,000 is strong enough to defeat the 20,000 men who are marching against him? **LUKE 14:28,31 (TLB)**

Know what you have. Know what you need. Know what you are trusting God for. Every decision has a price tag.

- **The Principle of _____ : Plan Your Steps.**

You have to think about what you are doing and where you are going. God gave you a brain because he meant for you to use it.

A prudent man gives thought to his steps. **PROVERBS 14:15 (NIV)**

We should make plans—counting on God to direct us.” **PROVERBS 16:9 (TLB)**

Prayer and preparation go together. As you pray, plan. And as you plan, pray, asking God to direct you. The prepared life is an effective life.

- **The Principle of _____ : Announce Your Goal.**

What you should say is this: “If the Lord is willing, we will live and do this or that.” **JAMES 4:15 (TEV)**

Goals are statements of faith. When you announce your goal it builds your faith and holds you accountable to other people.

- **The Principle of _____ : Let Go and Leap Out.**

When I am afraid, I will put my confidence in you. Yes, I will trust the promises of God. **PSALM 56:3 (TLB)**

Courage is not the absence of fear. Courage is moving ahead in spite of your fear.

"I have the strength to face all conditions by the power that Christ gives me. **PHILIPPIANS 4:13 (TEV)**

- **The Key to Daring Faith: _____ .**

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Quit praying and get the people moving! Forward, march!" **EXODUS 14:15 (TLB)**

Can you imagine God saying such a thing? "Quit praying and get moving!" People often use prayer as an excuse to procrastinate. But there comes a time when you must stop talking about it and thinking about it and praying about it, and just do something about it.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- Ephesians 3:20 says, "With God's power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine" (NCV). What are you asking? What are you imagining God can do in and through your life?
- Is there something you need to stop talking and thinking and praying about, and just start doing? What is your personal Red Sea?
- Pastor Rick said, "You have to move against your fear . . . Like the trapeze artist, it's time to let go and leap out." What fear do you need to move against? What practical step can you take to move in the right direction?

LIVING ON PURPOSE

- **Evangelism:** Jesus said, "You will be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8 NIV). A witness simply tells others what he has seen, heard, and experienced. Who do you know that needs to hear what you have seen, heard, and experienced in your walk with Christ? Share their name with your group. Are you afraid to share your faith with them? What could happen if you moved against your fear?

PRAYER DIRECTION

- Pray for each other that God will give you courage to move against your fears this week.
- Pray for each other's prayer requests. Be sure to record them on the *Small Group Prayer and Praise Report* on page 75 of this study guide. Commit to pray for each other's requests every day this week.

DIVING DEEPER

- Read the Daring Faith daily devotions for days 29 to 35 in this study guide.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Plan a seventh session together where you can celebrate what God has done in your lives through this small group study. This should be a dinner, barbecue, or picnic where the focus is on fellowship. It is also an excellent opportunity to invite people who might be interested in joining your small group. Start making plans now.

SESSION SIX

BELIEVING WHILE YOU'RE WAITING

CHECKING IN

1. In session one, you rated the strength of your faith on a scale of 1 to 10. How would you rate your faith today?
2. Share a verse or insight that was especially meaningful to you in your *Daring Faith* daily devotions this past week.

MEMORY VERSE

“With God everything is possible.” MATTHEW 19:26 (NLT)

 WATCH THE VIDEO LESSON NOW.
FOLLOW ALONG IN YOUR OUTLINE.



BELIEVING WHILE YOU'RE WAITING

Have you ever been in a hurry when God wasn't? One of the most difficult things to do in life is to sit in God's waiting room. When you worship an eternal God, sometimes it can feel like you're waiting for an eternity.

THE SIX PHASES OF FAITH

- **Phase One:** _____

The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation." **GENESIS 12:1-2 (NIV)**

- **Phase Two:** _____

So Abram left, as the Lord had told him. **GENESIS 12:4 (NIV)**

A dream without a decision is worthless.

- **Phase Three:** _____

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. **GENESIS 16:1 (NIV)**

- **Phase Four:** _____

"Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?" **GENESIS 17:17 (NIV)**

- **Phase Five:** _____

"Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and . . . sacrifice him as a burnt offering." **GENESIS 22:2 (NIV)**

- **Phase Six:** _____

"Abraham! Abraham! . . . Do not lay a hand on the boy. Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place "The Lord Will Provide." **GENESIS 22:11-14 (NIV)**

HOW TO KEEP BELIEVING WHILE YOU'RE WAITING ON GOD

- **Remember** _____ .

The situation may be out of your control but it's not out of God's control.

Abraham believed [in] the God who gives life to the dead and who creates something out of nothing. ROMANS 4:17 (NCV)

"Anything is possible if you have faith." MARK 9:23 (TLB)

"What is impossible with men is possible with God." LUKE 18:27 (NIV)

- **Rely on** _____ .

When hope was dead within him, [Abraham] went on hoping in faith, believing that he would become "the father of many nations." He relied on the word of God. ROMANS 4:18 (PH)

- **Recognize** _____ .

Without weakening in his faith, [Abraham] faced the fact that his body was as good as dead . . . and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief. ROMANS 4:19–20 (NIV)

Through faith he regarded the facts. ROMANS 4:19 (GW)

Faith is not ignoring reality or pretending a problem does not exist. Faith is facing a hopeless situation without being discouraged by it.

- **Rejoice** _____ .

Abraham never doubted. He believed God, for his faith and trust grew ever stronger, and he praised God for this blessing even before it happened. He was completely sure that God was well able to do anything he promised. ROMANS 4:20–21 (TLB)

THREE KINDS OF DELIVERANCE

- _____ **deliverance.**

In this type of deliverance God miraculously changes the situation.

- _____ **deliverance.**

In this type of deliverance God doesn't change the circumstance, he changes you.

• _____ **deliverance.**

If you have placed your faith in Jesus Christ, ultimately he will deliver you to heaven where there is no sorrow, no suffering, no sadness and no pain. That is God's ultimate deliverance.

We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. **ROMANS 5:2 (NIV)**

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." **JOHN 14:6 (NIV)**

Jesus can take a hopeless end and turn it into an endless hope. He may not deliver you in the way you think he should, but he will deliver you in the way he knows is best.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- Pastor Rick said the first thing to do while you're waiting on God is to "remember what God can do." What miracles has God already done in your life? How has he answered your prayers in the past? What did you learn about God in the process? Share stories of God's faithfulness with your group.
- Which phase of faith are you in right now? What do you think God is trying to teach you through it, and how does he want you to respond?
- What is the most meaningful lesson you have learned through this study of *Daring Faith*? What difference will that lesson make in your life?
- How have the people in your group helped to strengthen your faith?

LIVING ON PURPOSE

Worship: As the old hymn says, "Count your blessings." Remembering the things God has done in the past will build your faith for your current situation. Take ten minutes during your quiet time tomorrow and make a list of all the things God has done for you. Write them down. Then tell him thanks. You will be amazed by what it does for your faith.

PRAYER DIRECTION

- Before you pray for each other's requests, thank God for the lessons you have learned in this *Daring Faith* study.
- Pray for each other that God will help you in whichever phase of faith you are in.
- Pray for each other's prayer requests. Be sure to record them on the *Small Group Prayer and Praise Report* on page 75 of this study guide. Commit to pray for each other's requests every day this week.

DIVING DEEPER

- Read the *Daring Faith* daily devotions for days 36 to 40 in this study guide. If it's more convenient, you can listen to the daily devotions at www.drivetimedevotions.com. They're free!
- Read the Memory Verse on page 63 every day this week as part of your quiet time. See if you can memorize it before your next group meeting.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Congratulations on completing this study. It's time to plan a party! Pick a date, time, and location for your group to celebrate the work God has done in your lives over these last six weeks.

SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES
SMALL GROUP PRAYER AND PRAISE REPORT
SMALL GROUP CALENDAR

SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES

It's a good idea for every group to put words to their shared values, expectations, and commitments. Such guidelines will help you avoid unspoken agendas and unmet expectations. We recommend you discuss your guidelines during Session One in order to lay the foundation for a healthy group experience. Feel free to modify anything that does not work for your group.

WE AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING VALUES:

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| CLEAR PURPOSE | To grow healthy spiritual lives by building a healthy small group community |
| GROUP ATTENDANCE | To give priority to the group meeting (call if I am absent or late) |
| SAFE ENVIRONMENT | To create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved (no quick answers, snap judgments, or simple fixes) |
| BE CONFIDENTIAL | To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group |
| CONFLICT RESOLUTION | To avoid gossip and to immediately resolve any concerns by following the principles of Matthew 18:15–17 |
| SPIRITUAL HEALTH | To give group members permission to speak into my life and help me live a healthy, balanced spiritual life that is pleasing to God |
| LIMIT OUR FREEDOM | To limit our freedom by not serving or consuming alcohol during small group meetings or events so as to avoid causing a weaker brother or sister to stumble (1 Corinthians 8:1–13; Romans 14:19–21) |
| WELCOME NEWCOMERS | To invite friends who might benefit from this study and warmly welcome newcomers |
| BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS | To get to know the other members of the group and pray for them regularly |

SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

SMALL GROUP PRAYER AND PRAISE REPORT

This is a place where you can write each other's requests for prayer. You can also make a note when God answers a prayer. Pray for each other's requests. If you're new to group prayer, it's okay to pray silently or to pray by using just one sentence:

"God, please help _____ to _____."

DATE	PERSON	PRAYER REQUEST	PRAISE REPORT

SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

SMALL GROUP CALENDAR

Healthy groups share responsibilities and group ownership. It might take some time for this to develop. Shared ownership ensures that responsibility for the group doesn't fall to one person. Use the calendar to keep track of social events, mission projects, birthdays, or days off. Complete this calendar at your first or second meeting. Planning ahead will increase attendance and shared ownership.

DATE	SESSION	LOCATION	FACILITATOR	SNACK/MEAL
	SESSION ONE			
	SESSION TWO			
	SESSION THREE			
	SESSION FOUR			
	SESSION FIVE			
	SESSION SIX			

