

BREAKING NEW GROUND SERIES

"Groundbreaking Faith"

Genesis 22: 1 – 19

- **Groundbreaking faith has to be tested.**
_____. (v. 1 – 2)
 - **Tests are designed to determine the quality of our faith.**
 - **Tests come at unexpected avenues, unpredictable times, and unprecedented struggles**
- **Groundbreaking faith requires groundbreaking action.** (v. 3 – 8)
 - **Act based on my God not my Circumstances.**
 - **Act by trusting God for the details.**
- **Groundbreaking faith has to trust God to the finish.**
_____. (v. 9 – 19)
 - **The same God who tests is the same God who provides.**

Obedience is a matter of the heart. In these passages you will see that God's Word ties obedience to what's in our hearts which is a reflection of how we feel about God and what we believe about God. Although there are many ways to express love, God's Word says that I express my love for God by being obedient. What is my obedience saying about my love for God? What is my obedience saying about what I believe about God? Is fear of the unknown keeping me from expressing my love for God through my obedience? (I John 4:18). Do I find it hard to take God at His Word? What act of obedience can I take today to demonstrate my faith in God?

Read Esther 3:5, 4:6-16. Faith is looking beyond what you can see. Consider Esther. She found herself in a situation that required that she risked her life for the people of God. The law was that you would be put to death if you entered into the King's presence without being summoned unless he extended the golden scepter. What made Esther risk her life for the people? Do you find it hard to take a stand for God when there is a possibility of unfavorable consequences? Do you tend to focus more on what you can do in the situation, or on what GOD can do? What steps did Esther take before she went before the king? (v.16) How can you apply these same steps in your own life?

Read Exodus 14:31, II Samuel 7:28, I Chronicles 5:20, Psalms 9:10. Faith is a matter of trust. In our human relationships, trust is something that is not given but earned. We are not likely to immediately trust someone without taking the opportunity to find out about them and who they are. The same is true about our relationship with God. My level of trust is based on how well I know God. I cannot have faith in someone in whom I do not trust. How well do I really know God? How much time do I spend each day getting to know God? How would I describe my relationship with God? (e.g., acquaintance, friendship, or intimate). What one thing can I do every day to help me get to know God better?

Read Matthew 14:25-32. Faith gives you the ability to experience God in new ways. Would you have been with the crowd in the boat or would you have been like Peter? Why is it so hard to step outside of our comfort zone? Why do we feel like God should give turn-by-turn directions? If God provides all the details are we really exercising our faith? In what area of my life do I find myself lacking the groundbreaking faith I need to experience God's promise? How can I pray and ask God to help me overcome the obstacles that are keeping me from experiencing all that God has for me? God has some awesome blessings in store for me, but will I have the faith to ask Him for them and believe that I will receive them?

Taking It Home: How Will I Apply It? Matt. 17:20. Having faith often seems like it requires us to do a lot. However, a mustard seed is the smallest seed, yet it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants. What small steps can you take in your life today to allow God to show you what He is able to do with only a "mustard seed" of faith. Pray daily for God to provide opportunities for you to exercise your faith in those areas by speaking his promises for your life. Have faith in God for our God is faithful and will do just what He said! Hallelujah!

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Growth Group Discussion Guide

Go to concorddallas.org to join a growth group and learn more.