

The Eight Greats – LifeGroup Curriculum

Introduction: The Eight Greats

When it comes to greatness, everyone seems to want to know what it looks like and how to get there. There is no shortage of opinions on the subject. Here are just a few well-known people and their thoughts on greatness.

*"There are no great men, only great challenges that ordinary men are forced by circumstances to meet." **William F. Halsey***

*"Be not afraid of greatness; some are born great, some achieve greatness, and others have greatness thrust upon them." **William Shakespeare***

*"No great man lives in vain. The history of the world is but the biography of great men." **Thomas Carlyle***

*"Man is only truly great when he acts from his passions." **Benjamin Disraeli***

*"Well, I wouldn't say that I was in the great class, but I had a great time while I was trying to be great." **Harry S. Truman***

*"The price of greatness is responsibility." **Winston Churchill***

*"I can't believe that God put us on this earth to be ordinary." **Lou Holtz***

*"To be great is to be misunderstood." **Ralph Waldo Emerson***

*"Great crisis produce great men and great deeds of courage."
John F. Kennedy*

*"He should sweep streets so well that all the host of heaven and earth will pause to say, 'Here lives a great street-sweeper who did his job well'"
Martin Luther King Jr.*

The quest for greatness seems to be a common pursuit. For the past ten years, business and social sector leaders have been studying the worldwide bestseller **Good to Great** by Jim Collins looking for the way to move their companies and organizations to greatness. But, the criteria for greatness seem to be debatable. For example, sports fans continually debate who is the greatest player, coach, and team.

Greatness was evidently a hot topic of conversation in the 1st century as well. During Jesus' ministry, the topic of greatness came up several times. His disciples argued over who was the greatest (Mark 10:34) and an expert in the

Jewish Law pointedly asked Jesus, “Which is the greatest command?” (Matthew 22:36)

How does Jesus respond? What is the Biblical view of greatness? How can we be great in God’s sight? This study is designed to deal with these questions through personal study, Biblical teaching, and LifeGroup discussion.

How do I participate?

First and foremost, our desire is for you to know God better and grow in your relationship with Jesus. We want to talk about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, to follow God’s way. So, we are creating a conversation around the question, what is great in the eyes of God. We want you to participate in this conversation through Biblical teaching, personal study, and discussion in LifeGroups.

Biblical Teaching

Our Sr. Pastor, David Chadwick has identified Eight Greats from the Bible that he will unpack for us. For eight weeks, he will be teaching these Biblical truths during the weekend services. The Eight Greats are:

- The Great Trade
- The Great Reversal
- The Great Weakness
- The Great Faith
- The Great Want To
- The Great Perseverance
- The Great Love
- The Great Go

Personal Study

In preparation for the weekly teaching, there will be a Participant Guide for each topic designed for you to study, reflect, and prepare your heart for teaching and LifeGroup discussion. Here’s the simple format for the Participant Guide that you can expect each week. There will be 1) an introduction to the topic, 2) selected readings and questions to consider, 3) an opportunity to reflect on your story as it applies to the topic, 4) prayer, 5) a memory verse, and 6) additional resources.

LifeGroup Discussion

After you have studied and reflected on the topic on your own and you have listened to Biblical teaching, you will have the opportunity to discuss the topic with your LifeGroup. There is a LifeGroup Discussion Guide for each topic. The discussion builds upon your personal study and the weekend message. As a LifeGroup, you will discuss what the Bible says and what is our response.

A Final Word

For eight weeks, children, students, and adults at Forest Hill Church will be learning and talking about The Eight Greats. We will all be on the same page. Therefore, continue the conversation outside of your LifeGroup with your children, your spouse, your family and friends. In fact, for families with children we will have resources available to help you talk with your kids about The Eight Greats. You can find these resources at www.kidsatfhc.org and www.fhcadvance.com. Thanks for participating in this study for the next 2 months. Let's start the conversation around *The Eight Greats: How to Be Great in the Eyes of God*.

Session 1 – The Eight Greats: The Great Trade

Participant Guide

Introduction: The Great Trade

There is a phenomenon unique to professional sports where a team can actually trade their personnel (players) to another team for that team's current players or even future players. Perhaps one of the most historic trades in the history of sports occurred over 90 years ago between the Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees.

In 1919, the Boston Red Sox traded Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees for around \$150,000 (approximately \$1.6 million in dollars today). Rumor has it that the Red Sox owner traded Ruth to finance a Broadway musical, *No, No, Nanette*. In his 15 years with the Yankees, Ruth led the team to multiple World Series Championships and became the greatest player in his era and one of the greatest players ever. Over the next 84 years, the New York Yankees played in 39 World Series, winning 26 of them. The Boston Red Sox played in only four and lost every one. Before the trade in 1919, the Red Sox had won 5 of the previous 15 World Series. The Yankees had never played in a World Series.

While I am sure *No, No, Nanette* is a really good musical, the New York Yankees have seemed to benefit much more from this historic trade than the Boston Red Sox. There was an immediate positive impact for the Yankees and an ongoing long-term impact that altered the course of their history and the history of baseball. Many people might say the Yankees made a great trade with the Red Sox. This trade continues to be great news for those who love and follow the Yankees.

Here is some much greater news for you and me! God has made a blockbuster trade with humanity and we are the beneficiaries. For those who accept it, the impact is life changing and eternal. It is **the** great trade. This week we will focus on understanding the exchange that happens when we accept The Great Trade and how it changes our relationship with God and changes our life.

Selected Readings

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

What is the trade (or exchange) that Paul is talking about in this passage?

How do you see the old and new in your life?
Read Ephesians 2:1-10

Why do we need to be saved in this trade?

How are we saved?

What changes about our relationship with God?

How else does our life change?

Reflecting on My Story

Have you accepted the Great Trade?

We were all created to have everlasting life with God. It's a free gift, but in order to receive it, you have to accept the gift! To receive the gift, all you have to do is: **A** – Admit you're a sinner, **B** – Believe that Jesus died on the cross for your sins, and rose from the dead, overcoming death and paying the way for us to spend forever with God, **C** – Choose to follow Jesus.

Romans 10:9 says, "if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

The Great Trade is not only for a life to come when Jesus comes back to remake the heavens and the earth. It is also for the present time, the now.

How is the Great Trade changing your life?

Imagine looking in the mirror. Just like a mirror reflects who you are on the outside, our actions reflect who we are on the inside.

Read and reflect on Galatians 5:16-23 and the following questions.

How are you growing in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control?

Where do you see your old sinful nature still at work in you?

Talk to God about what's on your mind and heart. The prayer below may provide you some guidance.

Prayer

Lord, I am amazed at your grace in giving us your Son as a sacrifice for our sins. I praise you for your great gift and love. Thank you! Father, there are times I don't like the thoughts/emotions/behaviors of mine and I recognize both that they are death at work in me and that I am unable to conquer these on my own. I have depended upon something else besides Jesus to control these but now I turn to you and you alone. I would like for you to bring Life in Christ to this area. I would prefer you do this quickly but I also trust your sovereignty and am willing to wait on your timing for this. I will wait with expectant joy and hope knowing that it is Christ at work in me who lives and no longer death for I have made the Great Trade in my life. I have exchanged death for Life. I have made Jesus, your son whom you love, as my Savior. I turn my back on anything else in this world to give me Life. This is a more than a fair trade. Thank you for your generosity and grace to give me this. Please let all these marks of Christ, these fruits of His Spirit in me, grow. Let love and joy and peace and patience and kindness and goodness and faithfulness and gentleness and self-control all be more and more my reality. May there be the light in my life where there was once darkness. Let me be able to look back on my former life and see where you have led me. Thank you for this, my Lord.

Memory Verse

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” 2 Corinthians 5:21

Go Deeper (Additional Resources)

- Read Romans 5 – 8
- *Mere Christianity* - C.S. Lewis
- *The Me I Want to Be* – John Ortberg

Session 1 – The Eight Greats: The Great Trade

LifeGroup Discussion Guide

Introduction: The Great Trade

Consider the story you read about the Babe Ruth trade to the NY Yankees.

In 1919, the Boston Red Sox traded Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees for around \$150,000 (approximately \$1.6 million in dollars today). Rumor has it that the Red Sox owner traded Ruth to finance a Broadway musical, *No, No, Nanette*. In his 15 years with the Yankees, Ruth led the team to multiple World Series Championships and became the greatest player in his era and one of the greatest players ever. Over the next 84 years, the New York Yankees played in 39 World Series, winning 26 of them. The Boston Red Sox played in only four and lost every one. Before the trade in 1919, the Red Sox had won 5 of the previous 15 World Series. The Yankees had never played in a World Series.

Which team got the better end of this historic trade? How do you know?

Share any experiences you have with making a trade. How did you decide whether to make the trade?

What does the Bible say?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

What is your understanding of the trade (or exchange) Paul is talking about?

Read Ephesians 2:1-10

How does God see us differently as a result of the trade?

How do we live differently?

Why is The Great Trade great news?

Share with the group any insights God gave you during your study using the Participant Guide and from the weekend message.

What is our response?

If you have made the Great Trade in your own life, share what this has meant to you (if you are comfortable).

What has struck you the most during this discussion? Where do you think God is speaking to you regarding the Great Trade?

How can the group pray for you?

Session 2 - The Eight Greats: The Great Reversal

Participant Guide

Introduction: The Great Reversal

“Humility is to be modest, lowly, with a disposition to seek obscurity. Humility retires itself from the public gaze. It does not seek publicity or hunt for high places. Neither does it care for prominence. Humility is retiring in its nature. Self-abasement belongs to humility. It is given to self-depreciation. It never exalts itself in the eyes of others or even in the eyes of itself. It is the disposition to praise others. ‘In honor preferring one another’ (Romans 12:10) humility does not love the uppermost seats or aspire to the high places. It is willing to take the lowliest seat and prefers those places where it will be unnoticed.” (E.M. Bounds)

Think about our culture today. We are driven to win and our egos continue to grow. We are encouraged to be the best and the first in everything we do – fast readers, top of our class in school, and best player on the team. We want to be the winner of a championship in sports, the person with the largest social network, and an achiever at the top of the corporate ladder in our careers. Yet Jesus makes a startling statement in Matthew 19:30, “But many who are first will be last, and the last first.” He challenges us not to measure our worth in comparison with the accomplishments and sacrifices of others, but instead to focus on serving from a heart of gratitude in response to God’s grace. How do we respond?

This week we will discuss “The Great Reversal” and Jesus’ teaching about the last being first in heaven and many of the first here on earth being last. Our cultural understanding of success, winning and being first will be confronted as we study Biblical truths on this topic. In response to what we learn, we will be challenged to choose humility and to empty ourselves by choice, to begin preparing for the Great Reversal now, as God encourages us to do in James 4:10.

Read these sound bites and consider whether they reflect Biblical wisdom.

- *Humility is the gateway into the grace and the favor of God.*
Harold Warner
- *Humility before God is far more desirable than humiliation by our sin.*
Ron Clark
- *Pride is a personal commitment. It is an attitude, which separates excellence from mediocrity.* **Unknown author**

- *God created the world out of nothing; so as long as we are nothing, he can make something out of us. **Martin Luther***
- *Humility is not thinking less of ourselves. True humility is not thinking of ourselves at all. **David Chadwick***
- *Show class, have pride, and display character. If you do, winning takes care of itself. **Paul Bryant***

Selected Readings

Read Matthew 19:27–30.

How is Peter displaying pride? What is Peter seeking in this passage?

What is Jesus' response? Why do you think Jesus responded the way He did?

Who will be first in heaven and who will be last?

How can sacrificing for Christ show humility? How can it cause pride?

***Optional: Read Matthew 20:1–16 and compare to Matthew 19:27-30*

Read Luke 18:9–14.

Compare the posture of the Pharisee with the posture of the Tax Collector before God.

What does verse 14 teach us about pride and humility?

Read James 4:6–10.

How does God respond to the proud? To the humble?

What happens when we humble ourselves before God?

Read Mark 9:35, Mark 10:45, and Philippians 2:1–11.

How did Jesus both teach and model humility for His followers?

In John 3:30, John the Baptist says, “He must increase, but I must decrease.”

What are your thoughts as you reflect on this verse?

Reflection on My Story

As we reflect on the Biblical truths about many of the first being last and the last being first, it is important to think about how we can prepare for The Great Reversal now. This preparation includes dealing with our pride and diligently seeking after humility in our lives here on Earth. Here are some questions to consider as you reflect on your own story in response to what we’ve read.

How am I striving to be first in my life?

How have I allowed pride to prevail in my life? How have I chosen humility?

To look at it another way, ask yourself:

- 1. How do I respond when someone offends me?*
- 2. How do I respond when someone “speaks the truth in love” to me, even a close friend or family member who has my best interests at heart?*
- 3. When I am complimented do I give God the glory?*
- 4. When I am tempted to covet, how do I respond? Do I allow myself to continue to desire what others have or do I instead choose contentment and thanksgiving for what I’ve been given?*
- 5. When is the last time I’ve given undeserved mercy and grace to someone else, modeling the mercy and grace God has given to me?*

After reflecting on these questions, in what areas is God challenging you?

Prayer

Meditate on Philippians 2:5-11 and thank Jesus for humbling himself for you. Ask God to help you and guide you as you commit to live a life of humility.

Memory Verse

“Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.” Philippians 2:3

Go Deeper (Additional Resources)

- *Mere Christianity* - C.S. Lewis – Chapter 8

Session 2 - The Eight Greats: The Great Reversal

LifeGroup Discussion Guide

Introduction: The Great Reversal

What are we told in society today about winning and being first?

What does our culture say about humility and pride?

Share an example of someone who is humble.

What does the Bible say?

Read Matthew 19:27–30.

How do you identify with the disciples in the passage?

How do you feel about The Great Reversal – the idea that the last will be first and many who are first will be last?

Read Luke 18:9–14.

Where do you see yourself in this passage and why?

Read James 4:6–10.

What does James teach us about humility?

What does the Bible teach about choosing humility versus being humbled?

What in these passages challenged you the most?

Share with the group any insights God gave you during your study using the Participant Guide and from the weekend message.

What is our response?

How can we daily choose humility? What are some practical examples of ways we can seek humility in our lives this week?

What steps are we taking to eliminate pride in our lives?

How can we extend God's grace to someone else today?

Pray and ask God for His guidance as you seek to daily choose humility.

Break into pairs and share with your partner what God has revealed to you. Pray for each other and your commitments to live in humility before God and others.

Session 3 – The Eight Greats: The Great Weakness

Participant Guide

Introduction: The Great Weakness

Webster.com defines 'strong' as:

- 1) Having or marked by great physical power
- 2) Having moral or intellectual power
- 3) Having great resources

Everything in our culture drives people to maximize their strengths. Pressure for success begins at the earliest ages and continues with us throughout our lives. Parents desire superiority from their children academically and athletically. Job interviews hinge on an applicant's ability to articulate their strengths. Many profitable businesses constantly fight for more customers and a larger share of the market. Over the centuries, most churches have followed the culture's leading and desired worldly strength.

Webster.com defines another word this way:

- 1) Deficient in physical vigor: feeble and debilitated
- 2) Not able to sustain or exert much weight, pressure or strain
- 3) Not able to resist external force or withstand attack

Can you guess the word defined above? Weak. It may cause some of you to cringe as you read it. Our culture runs even faster away from weakness as we run towards strength. Weakness is often mocked in our schools, rejected from our universities, fired from our businesses, and repelled in our families. Right now, Amazon has 281,845 items for sale listed as 'self help.' Each of these products is designed to rid you of weakness and make you stronger.

What do the scriptures have to say regarding strength and weakness? Did Jesus prescribe to the same values taught in our culture? As you may expect, Jesus' teachings on true strength radically opposed what was being taught 2,000 years ago and what is being taught today. Biblically, strength is found in weakness. This topic, 'The Great Weakness', will lead you to struggle with God's plan for you as you journey with Him. Does God desire you to be strong the same way our culture defines strength? Does God want your children to race after worldly strength? How should you define a strong job, marriage, church, or LifeGroup?

Read these sound bites and consider whether they reflect Biblical wisdom.

- *In order to succeed, your desire for success should be greater than your fear of failure.* **Bill Cosby**
- *Success is a lousy teacher. It seduces smart people into thinking they can't lose.* **Bill Gate**
- *The whole point of being alive is to evolve into the complete person you were intended to be.* **Oprah Winfrey**
- *I am a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work, the more I have of it.* **Thomas Jefferson**
- *My strength and my weakness are twins in the same womb.* **Marge Piercy**
- *Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing.* **Vince Lombardi**
- *Pain is weakness leaving the body.* **Popular slogan on football/wrestling t-shirts**

Selected Readings

Read Matthew 5:1-12 (focus on verses 3-5)

Who are the people that come to mind when you hear "poor in spirit, mourn, meek?"

Jesus says each of these groups will be blessed, but it doesn't end there. How do you react when reading these groups also "receive the kingdom of heaven, receive comfort, inherit the earth?"

In what ways did Jesus reflect these characteristics in his own life in the Gospel accounts?

Read 2 Corinthians 11:16-12:13

List out the many hardships Paul faced. After writing each of them, read the list aloud. What on this list stands out to you?

After enduring these hardships, what do you learn regarding Paul's strength and resiliency?

God used the Apostle Paul to help shape early Christianity and our world today. How do you think these hardships, including his "thorn in the flesh", impacted his life and teachings/writings?

Reflection on My Story

Reflect on your story in light of The Great Weakness.

How have you attempted to be strong in your own power without God?

In your own life, how can you reflect the Beatitudes?

Astonishingly, Paul chose to boast when his 'thorn in the flesh' was not removed.

How can you boast in the obstacles you face?

Journal about the struggles you have faced and/or continue to face. (similar to listing Paul's hardships) How do you think God has used these to impact your life? Are there ways you have seen these hardships demonstrate God's strength?

What are your weaknesses? How do you think they can be used by God?

Prayer

As you pray, consider spending extra time in silence. During this time, ask God to speak to you regarding the struggles and hardships you have faced and continue to face. Ask Him for direction on how these areas of your journey can be used for strength in His eyes.

Memory Verse

“For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” 2 Corinthians 12:10

Go Deeper (Additional Resources)

- *In the Name of Jesus* - Henri Nouwen
- If you are interested in specific teaching on the Beatitudes in Matthew 5, go to the Tuesday Night Bible Study on Forest Hill's website: www.foresthill.org, 'Watch + Listen', 'Tuesday Night Archives', 'Week 10, March 29th, 2011.'

Session 3 – The Eight Greats: The Great Weakness

LifeGroup Discussion Guide

Introduction: The Great Weakness

What if everything you ever heard about success was completely wrong? What if the things your parents told you to strive for, your coaches told you to practice towards, your boss expects from you at work are all twisted? What if you are realizing the things you have told your children to accomplish aren't what God wants them to accomplish? This may be the case with this subject: The Great Weakness.

Read and discuss these sound bites with your group

- *In order to succeed, your desire for success should be greater than your fear of failure.* **Bill Cosby**
- *Success is a lousy teacher. It seduces smart people into thinking they can't lose.* **Bill Gate**
- *The whole point of being alive is to evolve into the complete person you were intended to be.* **Oprah Winfrey**
- *I am a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work, the more I have of it.* **Thomas Jefferson**
- *My strength and my weakness are twins in the same womb.* **Marge Piercy**
- *Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing.* **Vince Lombardi**
- *Pain is weakness leaving the body.* **Popular slogan on football/wrestling t-shirts**

What does our culture tell us about strength and success?

How do you define success? Vividly describe your definition.

What does the Bible say?

Read Matthew 5:1-12 (focusing on verses 3-5)

How would you react to someone telling you to 'strive towards the beatitudes?'

In what ways can you see yourself striving to become meek, poor in spirit, or mourning? In what ways can't you see yourself striving for these things?

Describe the seasons in your life that you have related to the brokenness described in this passage?

Read 2 Corinthians 11:1-12:13

How was Paul able to persevere under continual hardships? What does this say about Paul? What does this say about God?

Why would God choose for his children to face hardships?

Describe a time in your life you were like Paul and content with a weakness or thorn in the flesh. Describe a time you were not content under similar circumstances. What was the difference?

Share any insights God gave you this week from the participant guide and the weekend message.

What is our response?

What is the end goal of our weakness?

How will this Godly perspective on weakness and strength affect the way you approach your life? your relationship? your work? your spiritual journey?

Are there any specific ways you are drawn to bring compassion to those around you who are poor in spirit, mourning, meek, etc....?

How can your LifeGroup pray for the struggles you are presently facing? Dream together about how these trials may be used for God's purposes and good.

Pray together.

Session 4 – The Eight Greats: A Great Faith

Participant Guide

Introduction: A Great Faith

The world tells you to trust no one. Pull yourself up by your bootstraps. Do research, weigh the evidence, and consider the facts. Most believe there is a reasonable explanation for everything. So where does faith fit in today's culture?

Read these *Sound Bites* and consider whether they reflect Biblical wisdom.

- *Faith is denying reality by self-delusion.*
- *Faith is confidence or trust in a person or thing.*
- *Faith is belief without evidence. Sometimes it is belief in the face of evidence to the contrary.*
- *Faith for me is that indefinable, intangible part of my heart & soul that is personally undeniable and internally very real and a part of ALL that I am and that only I fully feel, know and recognize for "ME".*
- *Faith is believing what you know ain't so. **Mark Twain***

How would you define faith?

Selected Readings

Read Matthew 8:5-13

How does the Centurion demonstrate his faith?

Why do you think Jesus marveled at the Centurion's faith?

The Centurion showed he had expectant faith. He not only knew Jesus was capable of healing his servant with just a word, but believed Jesus would heal him. Often expectant faith results in God revealing Himself through miracles. However, God is not like a magic genie who is obligated to grant our requests. Sometimes, He does not answer our prayers for reasons unknown. So what should our response be?

We should desire to have the same attitude as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Read how they responded when King Nebuchadnezzar threatened to throw them into a fiery furnace in Daniel 3:16-18.

Read Matthew 15:21-28

Why is it surprising that the Canaanite woman had such a great faith?

What can you learn about persistence and perseverance from her?

What do you think is the relationship between prayers, faith, and miracles?

Read Mark 9:14-29

What does the father's words in verse 22 say about the father's faith?

What can you learn about faith from Jesus' response in verses 23 and 29?

Reflection on my Story

Your story is not a monologue but part of a larger story. Hebrews 11 is a great example of this. It shows how faith plays a significant role in how individuals' stories intersect with God's story.

Read Hebrews 11. *What do you learn about God and faith from this passage?*

Think about your journey and how your story intersects with God's story. Identify situations in your past that have caused you to exercise faith.

How did you persevere? What impact did it have on your relationship with God?

Prayer

Read Luke 1:46-55. This is Mary's hymn of praise in response to Elizabeth stating, "blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished." Write your own prayer to God. It may be a prayer like Mary's praising God for who He is and all that He has done. It may be a prayer asking God to give you faith in regards to a specific situation. Whatever is on your heart, respond to God in faith.

Memory Verse

"For nothing is impossible with God". Luke 1:37

Go Deeper (Additional Resources)

- *Believing God* – Beth Moore
- *A Case for Faith* – Lee Strobel
- *Reaching for the Invisible God* – Philip Yancy

Session 4 – The Eight Greats: A Great Faith

LifeGroup Discussion Guide

Introduction: A Great Faith

This past week you read the following sound bites:

- *Faith is denying reality by self-delusion.*
- *Faith is confidence or trust in a person or thing.*
- *Faith is the belief without evidence. Sometimes it is belief in the face of evidence to the contrary.*
- *Faith for me is that indefinable, intangible part of my heart & soul that is personally undeniable and internally very real and a part of ALL that I am and that only I fully feel, know and recognize for "ME".*
- *Faith is believing what you know ain't so. **Mark Twain***

What stood out to you in the quotes?

How would you define faith?

Share a time when you've seen "Great Faith" lived out.

What does the Bible say?

Read Matthew 8:5-13

What are some characteristics of the Centurion's faith?

What are similarities and differences between your faith and the Centurion's?

Share what miracles you've witnessed in your life.

Read Matthew 15:21-28

How did the Canaanite woman demonstrate faith?

In what ways do you relate to her?

How do you react when your prayers are not answered quickly?

Read Hebrews 11

What do you learn about God and faith in the passage?

Share any insights God gave you this week from the participant guide and the weekend message.

What is our response?

What is one thing you can implement in your daily routine to increase your knowledge of God?

Share how you are currently exercising faith in your own life.

Praise God for revealing Himself to you through miracles (a sunset, the birth of a child, answer to prayer)

Break into pairs and pray specifically for each other in the areas you are exercising faith. Ask God to continue to reveal Himself and increase your faith.