

# FACTORS OF FAITHFULNESS

## DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR SMALL GROUPS

### LESSON FOUR: FAITHFUL IN EVANGELISM

#### PSALM 126:5-6

#### MAIN POINT

Christ has commanded His people to pursue others in evangelism and to trust that He will bring forth fruit from our obedient efforts.

#### INTRODUCTION

*As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.*

- Think back on a time when you were excited about trying or starting something new. What fueled that excitement and energy?
- When you begin a new adventure or a new way of life, what is it that keeps you from turning back?

We have a God-given mission to share Jesus with the world. Sharing Jesus is not optional for followers of Christ. We find our motivation in what Christ has done for us and what He desires to do in and through us to reach a lost world. Because Christ has changed us, we are fueled by His compassion to join Him in His work, beginning with developing relationships with the lost people we encounter in our daily lives.

#### UNDERSTANDING

*Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.*

**Have a volunteer read Mark 8:36.**

- Jesus said a person's soul is of great worth. What makes a person's soul of much worth?
- How often do you think people generally consider their souls?
- Why is it important that Christians tell others of the value of their souls?

Any appraiser will tell you that in making an appraisal of a piece of property, the prime question is: What is someone willing to pay for it? The amount someone is willing to pay for an item gives insight into its worth.

What was the Lord Jesus willing to pay for you? First Peter 1:18-19 says: “knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” Jesus, bleeding and in agony, died upon the cross because that’s how much He valued a soul.

Secondly, when God made the human soul, God made it in His own image, and your soul could never cease to exist anymore than God could cease to exist. Your soul will go on endless, timeless, dateless, and measureless. When the sun, moon, and stars have grown cold, your soul will still be in existence. There was a time when you were not, but there never will be a time when you are not. Your soul will exist forever, either in Heaven or in Hell.

Finally, a soul is worth much because of its possibility. Any person has the potential of being transformed into the likeness of Jesus Christ or the horrible potential of spending an eternity in the very pits of Hell.

**Have a volunteer read Psalm 126:5-6.**

- How do these verses speak to the importance of evangelism?
- Why is it imperative that we “go” to sow the seeds of evangelism?

Soul winning is like sowing seed. Where do you sow seed? In the field. You don’t sow the seed in the barn; you sow the seed in the field. We need to get this seed out of the barn and out into the field. Where is the field? The field is the world. This doesn’t necessarily mean going to be a missionary to some foreign field. All of us are called, as we go into the everyday sphere of our lives, to sow to win souls.

- Why might a person be weeping, even as he or she sows these seeds of the Kingdom?
- What does this say about the passion we are to have for evangelism?

The Holy Spirit gives us deep passion to see others receive the same saving grace that we have in Jesus. This passion should lead us to have broken hearts over those who reject the truth of the Gospel. Yet, even in the hardship of this reality, we are called to continue sowing in faithfulness.

- What is the seed that we are to sow in the fields of our lives?
- How are we to prepare ourselves to be good sowers?

The seed is the Word of God. In the parable of the sower, Jesus plainly said the seed is the Word (see Mark 4:14) and there's power in that seed. Hebrews 4:12 says, "For the word of God is living and powerful." There's life in a seed. And because there's life in a seed, there is incredible power. And that is the power that the soul winner has. There is power in the Word of God. If you keep scattering the seed, it will sprout and give life, and sometimes the hardest heart will crack.

- How can recognizing that the power to save is God's and not our own give us confidence in sharing the Gospel with others?
- What is the promise in Psalm 126:5-6 for those who sow the Word of God faithfully in evangelism?

If we keep sowing, we are promised a harvest of joy. We are not responsible for how people respond, but we are responsible for sharing with them. Today, let's not ask God to help us win ten people for Him. Let's faithfully focus on one and follow Him from there.

### APPLICATION

*Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.*

- On a scale of 0-10, how often do you think about the spiritual condition of the people you know (0 = never; 10 = constantly)?
- What would help you keep people's spiritual condition in the front of your mind?
- If you've shared the Gospel or been blessed to lead someone to Jesus, in what ways did it energize your own faith and enthusiasm?

### PRAYER

Ask God for a passion and boldness to share the Gospel. Ask for conviction that prompts obedience and leads to joy. Thank God for inviting every person in your group to join His work of seeking and saving the lost.