



Small Groups

Small Group Discussion Guide

A Now Kind of Faith in a Someday Kind of World

Pastor Shawn Thornton

(Discussion Guide by Mack Braden)

April 25-26, 2020

Courage! Saying that word out loud makes us think of people who have done great things in the face of incredible danger. Heroes who are willing to put their lives on the line to save others. Men and women who instinctively and intentionally run toward gunfire, run into burning buildings, and run to help sick, dying contagious people.

The Bible gives us many examples of people with courage. Rahab hid the Israelite spies knowing she would lose her life if she was caught. David faced the giant with a sling and a rock while the other soldiers were shaking in their armor. Peter and John, when threatened by the same men who had Jesus put to death, said “we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.” There are many other examples of courageous people in the Bible who are heroes of the faith. We think of them as people who were somehow specially gifted to do what they did, but the truth is, they were simply people who were willing to take the next step of faith in the blurriest moments of their lives.

As Pastor Shawn taught this weekend, “Courage will follow as faith take the lead.” We want to be people who respond with courage and faith in these uncertain and troubling times. What can we do to lean in and develop a deeper faith-filled life? Let’s discuss four keys to developing a “now kind of faith in a someday kind of world” because “life’s blurriest moments require faith’s bravest steps!”

Opening Question: What are you most looking forward to doing as soon as the stay-at-home orders are lifted?

READ aloud Luke 24:13-36

I. Hang Out With God’s People (when you feel like drifting away)

In times of uncertainty, it’s easy to put our life on pause, especially our spiritual life. Though we are experiencing uncharted territory now, we have to remember that the church is not where we go, but who we are. We are the church!

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT) “and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”

1. Are you hanging out with God’s people these days or are you drifting?

2. **How can your small group stay engaged and “spur one another onto love and good deeds” during this disorienting time?**
3. **What are some ways you can actively engage with other Christians in your life and encourage them?**

II. Hold On To God’s Hand (when you feel like taking over)

Most of the time we want God to change our situation, when often God is using the situation to change us.

II Corinthians 4:16-17 (NIV) “Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.”

4. **What are some of the difficult aspects of this time that have frustrated you, caused you to feel weary, or want to give up?**
5. **In what areas of your life do you feel you are losing control during this time of uncertainty? Pray together for God to help you let go and trust Him with it.**

III. Dig In To God’s Word (when you feel like giving up)

Satan wants to shake your faith. He wants to convince you to stay out of God’s Word and to walk away from what you know to be true.

Psalms 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

6. **Share a couple verses from God’s Word that have illuminated your way during this time. If you’ve been engaging with the Bible in a way that has been helpful for you, share it with the group.**
7. **Do you spend regular time in God’s Word? If you don’t have a Bible study plan right now, commit to 5 minutes a day reading Pastor Shawn’s online devotionals or pick a simple Bible reading plan from the Bible App on your phone.**

IV. Lean In To God’s Mission (when you feel like stepping back)

We need to actively take that next step of faith, whatever it may be. Step forward and trust God. Keep seeking to live and love like Jesus one day at a time.

Matthew 28:19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

8. **What is your mission field? Who has God placed in your path to influence?**
9. **What is one practical step of faith you can take in this season of life?**