

[LIMITLESS]

Week Two: Risk – Study Guide

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October 5, 2013

"I'm all in." Those are the words spoken by many poker players when they are willing to put all their chips on the table, and take the risk of either winning or losing. As Jesus followers, it can be hard to be all in, to break through our fears, and to risk whatever God is telling us to do. This week, we will discuss what it means to follow God and be willing to take risks for the sake of making Him known to people around us.

Where Am I Today?

- 1) Would you say you are a risk taker or someone who plays it safe? When do you find yourself willing to take the most risks? When do you take the safer route?

Into the Bible

- 2) This week, we will continue the story of David and Goliath and think about the risk David took when he fought Goliath. Read **1 Samuel 17:41-47**. What made David step out and take the risk of fighting Goliath? What's the difference between David and Goliath's faith?

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- 3) There are other moments in the Bible of people taking risks because God asked them to. Read **Acts 9:10-18**. What made Ananias question God's request? Why do you think Ananias was willing to take the risk?

- 4) Knowing when God is telling you to take a risk can be hard. Read **John 10:27-28** and **John 16:13**. If you are a Jesus follower, why do these verses give you an indication that you can know when God is telling you to take a risk?

How Does This Apply?

- 5) Just like David, God is calling each one of us to step out in faith and follow Him. God's not calling us to a life of convenience, but to a life that is willing to take uncomfortable risks for the sake of making Him known. To what lengths are you willing go outside your comfort zone when He's asking you to? What risk have you already taken that you knew God was telling you to do, without fully knowing how God would provide?

- 6) Fear can cause you to see only the "giants" in your life. Faith sees God as being bigger than any seemingly impossible situation. What obstacle in your life do you view as nearly impossible to overcome? What does that first leap of faith look like for you?

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- 7) Sometimes we take risks without hearing God, and then wonder why those reckless decisions end badly. God is not calling us to be reckless. God is calling us to a relationship that can hear His voice and know when He's calling us to take risks that have eternal value to His Kingdom. As you look back over your life, can you tell which risks were God-given and which ones were your own direction?
- 8) Looking back at past moments where God spoke to you can help determine the direction He's leading you now. Continually staying connected to the Spirit will help you recognize His voice. What are some other practical things you can start doing today to know where God is guiding you? Read **Philippians 4:6**, **2 Timothy 3:16-17**, **Proverbs 12:15** and **Proverbs 11:14**.

Prayer Focus

As a church, we are praying together for several things this month:

- Celebrate that we've closed on the Statesville Building! Please also pray for the safety of the team members who have begun working in the building.
- Pray for Christians around the globe who are experiencing persecution.
- Pray for people who need courage to follow God's big vision for their lives.

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Continue Learning on Your Own

- 9) There is no shortage of heroes in the Bible, particularly when it comes to taking risks. There is a full chapter in Hebrews that lists some amazing people that had tremendous amounts of faith. Let's take a look at some of the names that may not sound familiar to you. Read **Hebrews 11:32-38**. Note the names of people listed, and then find their stories in the Bible. What can you learn from these people?