

# DEFY FAITH

## Week One: Believing Without Evidence – Study Guide

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We all make decisions every day. Sometimes they are hard to make because we don't know the impact they may have on our future. None of us can see into the future, but we can place our faith in the One who does know our future. Faith in Christ is a complete game changer, and yet it can be difficult to live out practically. In this study, we will take a look at ways to place our faith in Christ, put it into practice, and grow in our relationship with Him.

### Where Am I Today

- 1) It's easy to use the word faith without considering what it really means. When you think about faith, what definition comes to mind?

### Into the Bible

- 2) In Luke, there was a man whom Jesus recognized as having an extraordinary amount of faith. Read **Luke 7:1-10**. What made Jesus marvel at the centurion's faith? How does this story give you two different ways of approaching Jesus?

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- 3) Faith teaches us that God has the power to work in us even though we can't physically see Him. Paul understood and talked about this to the church in Corinth. Read **2 Corinthians 5:6-10**. What other quality do we need to walk by faith? What indication do you get that faith isn't supposed to be dormant?

### How Does This Apply?

- 4) As Jesus followers, our faith is not passive, but active. We don't stand around waiting, but we step out trusting God with each day. Too often, we step back, wanting to see the path rather than trusting that God is preparing the way for us. What are some areas where you think God may be telling you to step out even though you may not have all the answers? How would living by faith change your decision-making process?
  
- 5) Like the centurion, sometimes we may feel a sense of unworthiness for God to be present in our circumstances. Faith isn't rooted in our emotions but is planted in an internal trust in God as our provider. What are some areas in your life where you feel unworthy for God to move, and yet your faith remains strong?
  
- 6) All of us have room to grow our faith in Christ. It doesn't grow overnight, but it does grow over time, if we remain faithful to staying connected to Him. It takes intentionality and seeking Him in the decisions we make. Think about your relationship with God. What are some things you are doing, or can begin to do, that strengthen your faith in God?

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### Continue Learning on Your Own

- 7) It's easy to fall into the trap of thinking that we've done enough for God to move on our behalf. Religion thinks that we've done enough, but faith in Him trusts that God is more than enough. God is more interested in accomplishing things through us than He is in our display of achievements. Read **Ephesians 2:4-10**. How does Paul say we are saved, and how does that affect the way we live our lives?

Reflect on your life. What are some areas where you felt you had earned the right for God to move in your life? What kind of results did you see with this mentality?