

DEFATH

Week Two: Seeing is Believing – Study Guide

By Josh Miller

April 5, 2014

We all experience good and bad things in life. At some point, if you haven't already, you will face a shipwreck moment—a time when you have to dig deep in order to hold on to your faith in God. Often, when we experience hardships, we begin to lose faith that God knows and cares about us. In this study, we'll take a look at how God remains present in our lives, and uses each situation as a way of showing us His faithfulness in order to strengthen our own faith.

Where Am I Today

- 1) When difficult seasons come, it's easy for a seed of doubt to be planted, and to begin to question whether God is still present in your life. You may even run to other things as coping mechanisms. What's your first response when a difficult situation arises? Why is it so easy to begin to question God's faithfulness in life?

Into the Bible

- 2) Let's continue on our journey into the book of Luke to see what we can learn. Read **Luke 7:11-17**. What kind of picture does this story paint of God's faithfulness? What was the reaction of the crowd after Jesus healed the young man?

FAITH

WEEK TWO: SEEING IS BELIEVING – STUDY GUIDE

- 3) Even when your faith in God is tested, He remains faithful. God can take any situation, including yours, and turn it into good for His purpose. Read **Romans 8:27-28** and **1 Peter 1:3-9**. What does Peter tell us is the purpose of being tested? How can these verses give you a sense of peace in your life?

How Does This Apply?

- 4) Seeing God move in hardship can be a great faith builder in your life. When you miss seeing God in your adversity, you miss an opportunity to experience His presence. Instead of asking God to be present, ask Him to make you aware of His presence in your life. Take a moment to reflect. How have you seen God's faithfulness in your life even when you didn't sense His presence? What did God do to get your attention?
- 5) You might have ambitions and goals you've given up on because God hasn't moved you out of your current circumstances. Instead of allowing crushed dreams to be fatal to your faith, use adversity as an opportunity to strengthen your faith in God. What are some things in your life you've given up on? Up to this point, what has your response been to your circumstances?
- 6) When things don't go as planned, it's easy to get sucked into thinking that God doesn't care about you. God often waits to show up in your life so you're left with little doubt that it's Him working. It gives you greater opportunities to tell others of times when you saw God's faithfulness. How have you turned your difficult situations into some of the greatest opportunities to tell others of God's faithfulness? How has this strengthened you to remain faithful to Christ in every season of life?

FAITH

WEEK TWO: SEEING IS BELIEVING – STUDY GUIDE

Continue Learning on Your Own

- 7) There are times when it is difficult to understand why bad things happen in life. There is a sense of mystery and we certainly don't know all the answers; if we did, there would be no need to have faith. Not knowing all the answers is nothing new and some things will always be mystery. Take a look at some people in the Bible who had bad things happen to them, and yet, God turned their situations into good. In what ways was God able to use each person's tough circumstance for a purpose?

Joseph: **Genesis 37:18-28; Genesis 45:4-8**

Esther: **Esther 2:5-7,15-18; 4:12-17; 8:3-8**

Job: **Job 1:13-2:8; 42:1-6; James 5:11**

Jesus: **Philippians 2:5-11**