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**WEEK 2 - RADICAL FAITH**

**SERIES BIG IDEA**

When we choose to live radically for God, He will do radical exploits through us. This series will explore the role of young people in the end-time harvest through radical devotion, faith, conviction, and boldness.

**BIBLICAL PASSAGE**

Daniel 2:14–23; 11:32; Acts 3:1–10

**BOTTOM LINE**

As we radically believe and obey God, He will perform great exploits through us.

**LAUNCH**

**Option 1 - Interactive Questions**

1. How would you define the word *faith*?
2. Who is someone in your life you consider to be a person of great faith?
3. How can someone practice faith on a daily or weekly basis?
4. The Bible says, “We walk by faith, not by sight” (II Corinthians 5:7). What do you think this verse means?

**Option 2 - Blind Faith**

1. *Ask for a brave volunteer. Blindfold the volunteer, being sure the student cannot see anything. Spin the student around a few times. Provide tasks for the student to accomplish or instructions for the student to walk across the room. Consider setting up an area of the room as a mini obstacle course. The goal is to challenge the student to accomplish something while being blindfolded.*
2. *Examples: Take two steps forward. Without using your hands, sit down in a chair. Pick up the item on the ground.*
3. This object lesson will demonstrate living by faith and not by sight. The volunteer has to put his or her trust in the instructions and the one giving the instructions. Similarly, we have to put our trust in God and His Word.

**Option 3 - Floating Paper Clips**

1. *Set a clear bowl of water in front of the class. Try to make a paper clip float by placing it on the water. The paper clip will sink.*
2. *With another paper clip, create an L shape by folding one section outward. This paper clip will act as a holder. Place another paper clip on top of the bottom of the holder and lower it gently into the water. With the help of the “holder,” the resting paper clip should float.*
3. A floating paper clip is impossible, unless it is assisted by something else. Likewise, faith without works is dead. We must couple our faith with action to see God do the impossible.

**UNLOCK**

1. **Living in the Last Days**
   1. *Read Matthew 24:3–14.*
   2. When reading Jesus’ words from the Olivet Discourse, we sense an environment of fear that will surround the last days. Alongside other signs, Jesus mentioned there will be rumors of wars, racial tensions, famines, diseases, persecutions, and deceptions.
   3. With all these types of events transpiring, we can discern that a spirit of fear will be rampant across the earth. Luke’s account in chapter 21 even described “men’s hearts failing them for fear.” Fear will be present and active in the last days. These are the days we live in right now.
   4. *Read II Timothy 1:7.*
   5. Fear does not come from God, and we do not have to bow down to it. No matter how strong the feeling of fear may grow in our present time, we have power. Faith is the counterpart to fear. Instead of relenting to the fear of our environment, we must hold on to the power of faith.
   6. We do not know the day or hour of His return, but we can watch for the signs. Among all the fearful and troublesome signs, we have a promise that the gospel will be preached in every nation. We can take faith in the fact that while the world worsens, His kingdom will continue to press forward.
   7. Fear will not win. Hold fast to the faith.
2. **Recap of Week 1**
   1. The time for radical devotion is now. To the world, a devoted life is a radical life.
   2. Devotion creates distinction. The characters of Daniel and the early apostles were elevated in the eyes of men and God because of their devotion.
   3. Devotion determines direction. Our devotion will serve as the necessary foundation we will use to stand and endure the evil days around us. It’s time to live radically.
3. **The Faith of Daniel**
   1. The Hebrews in the Book of Daniel demonstrated great faith to us. We see a continual trust in God through a variety of circumstances.
   2. *Read Daniel 2:14–23.*
   3. In Daniel chapter 2, King Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams that troubled him. When he awakened from sleep, he could not remember the dreams. He called for the magicians, astrologers, sorcerers, and Chaldeans and presented them with an impossible request. He wanted them to tell him his dreams and interpret them for him. When no one was able to accomplish this request, the furious king decreed that all the wisemen be killed.
   4. When Daniel heard the decree, he requested time. Daniel informed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego of the dangerous situation, and they all turned to prayer. Through their faith-filled response, the dreams and interpretations were revealed to Daniel.
   5. Ultimately, God was glorified and the Hebrews were promoted.
4. **Faith in Acts**
   1. Radical faith is present throughout the Book of Acts. We read of healings, provision, jails being opened, and many more supernatural events initiated by faith.
   2. *Read Acts 3:1–10.*
   3. Peter and John’s devotion to the hour of prayer led them to a moment of demonstrating the power of faith. As they were journeying to the Temple for the hour of prayer, a miracle opportunity presented itself. A man who could not walk sat daily at the Gate Beautiful to ask worshipers for alms.
   4. When Peter and John turned their attention to him, faith began to rise. Instead of giving him alms, Peter spoke the name of Jesus and the word of faith over the man. As soon as Peter took him by the hand, the man’s feet and ankle bones received strength. The man jumped to his feet and entered the Temple, leaping and praising God.
   5. Ultimately, the people were amazed and a door to preach the gospel was opened.

**INTERSECT**

1. **What Is Faith?**
   1. *Read Hebrews 11:1–3.*
   2. Simply stated, faith is putting our trust in God. Faith, by itself, has no power unless that faith is put in an all-powerful, all-knowing God.
   3. Faith has an invisible component to it. It is the “evidence of things not seen.” Not everything in God’s kingdom is visible to our eyes and sensible to our understanding, so we must trust that God is.
   4. Faith also has a visible component, a substance. Hebrews 11:6 says, “He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” The visible component to faith is shown through our actions. Faith and obedience go hand in hand.
   5. Having faith is both belief and action. When faith is present in our lives, we will not only have belief on the inside, but our actions will reflect our faith on the outside.
   6. Hebrews 11 provides many examples of men and women who put their trust in God through action. Whether it was Abel offering a sacrifice, Noah preparing an ark, Moses’ parents hiding their son, or the children of Israel marching around Jericho, faith was present and active.
   7. *Read James 2:17–18.*
   8. The challenge for the people of God in this hour is to reveal our great faith in God through our works. We must facilitate our faith by ministering to those who are hurting, searching, and lost. The need is great, but God is willing and able.
   9. God wants us to take our faith and demonstrate great exploits.
2. **Prayer Is Our Foundation**
   1. Present in both the story of Daniel and the story of Peter and John is the power of prayer. Whether it was spontaneous prayer in crisis or faithful devotion at the hour of prayer, prayer was the foundation of these miracles.
   2. Our faith is activated through prayer. If we make it a priority to call on God first and connect with Him daily, our faith can give us access to the power of God.
   3. *Read Psalm 91:15.*
3. **Faith Finds Friends**
   1. In the story of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, Daniel returned home to inform his friends of the crisis. He gathered his friends for the sole purpose of agreeing together in prayer.
   2. In the story of the man at the Gate Beautiful, Peter and John were walking together to the hour of prayer. While Peter was the one who spoke the word of faith, John was with him in unity and accountability.
   3. These stories demonstrate the power of joining our faith with someone else. We all need friends who encourage great faith.
   4. Read Hebrews 10:21–25.
   5. It is important to notice the context and number of times the phrase “let us” is used in this passage. Faith needs friends.
4. **Radical Faith Changes Things Radically**
   1. Nebuchadnezzar sent out a decree that put the lives of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in imminent danger. Unless something changed, they would be killed soon.
   2. But the people of God knew their fate was not in the hands of a pagan king. Their trust was in the King of all kings. When faith led to prayer, the situation turned immediately and drastically.
   3. The man at the Gate Beautiful believed this day was like every other ordinary day. His expectations were simply to receive a temporary gift. Unless something changed, he would go home the same.
   4. But God responds to faith. Peter stepped into radical faith by speaking the name of Jesus and reaching out his hand to lift up the man. While the man expected money, Peter expected the man to be healed.
   5. What does the Lord want to do through your faith today?

**ARRIVE**

**Option 1 - I Believe**

1. *Hand each student paper and a pen. Ask students to write down things they believe the Lord can do for them and through them. Encourage them to write things according to their faith by starting each sentence with “I believe...”*
2. Examples: I believe everyone in my family will be baptized and filled with the Holy Ghost. I believe a Bible study will start at my school. I believe my mom will be healed.
3. *If time permits, ask volunteers to share.*

**Option 2 - Prayer**

1. *Have a time of prayer, encouraging students to declare God’s Word by faith over certain situations.*
2. *Conclude by having students pray for one another and for others’ needs.*

**Option 3 - The Postscript**

1. In the stories from Daniel and Acts, faith was put into action.
   1. Daniel trusted in God and gathered his friends to pray.
   2. Peter spoke the name of Jesus and reached out his hand by faith.
2. *Lead a discussion on how the group can put their faith into action. On a whiteboard, write down answers to this question:* What are some things you can do this week to act on your faith?