

Introduction:

Faith. What is it? You can't physically touch it or see it with the naked eye. You can't purchase it from the store when you are running low. But you can "see" it demonstrated in the life of a woman who confidently trusts God in the midst of a storm. You can "hear" it in the voice of the one waiting for her healing, for a financial miracle, or the restoration of a broken relationship. So, how do you develop the maturity and depth in your faith walk that anchors your soul and inspires others?

1. Faith is important because it's important to God- Hebrews 11:6 NLT

"And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him."

2. Definition of Audacious

- It is not reckless, arrogant, or unwise, but bold and daring faith, ready to believe God at His word over our circumstances.
- A faith that is expectant for miracles and anticipating supernatural intervention.
- A faith that trusts in the Lord's timing and experiences peace in the waiting.
- And a faith that surrenders our will to the will of God when things do not go as planned.

Scripture Text: Tell the story of Numbers 13:1-24 NLT

- The Lord told Moses to send 12 spies into the Promised Land and bring back a report on the land He was giving them.

Read Numbers 13:25-28

- All 12 saw a bountiful land flowing with milk and honey.
- The response of Caleb and Joshua- vs 30 "We can certainly conquer it!"
- The response of the remaining ten spies: vs. 31-33
 - They looked with a negative lens.
 - They listened to their fear.
 - They limited God by focusing on their smallness- we are as grasshoppers- instead of the limitless power and authority of God.

Possible application:

1 It's our choice – fear or faith

- Fear is false faith.
- Genuine faith believes for the best; fear anticipates the worst
- Fear is a poison that distorts reality
- Fear confines and cripples; faith empowers
- Fear makes us believe everything is going wrong when it's not.
- Fear makes us miss out on the miraculous ways God wants to intervene in our lives.

2. It's not about what you see; it's about what He says.

3. "Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible" – Matt 19:26 NLT.

4. She will be known by her boldness of faith. And "she" is you!

Conclusion:

- Looking through the lens of faith can change everything!
It fuels our hope to trust the Lord and gives us the courage to fight spiritual battles.
- Even when our circumstances remain the same, we can continue to be joyful by faith, knowing that our God has the final word.
- Jesus has given us permission and a charge to pray big prayers and believe Him for things that are beyond our reach and control.

Response:

In closing, no matter the setting (women's bible study, retreat, Sunday morning sermon, small group), provide a moment for your audience to respond to the message. Invite the audience to close their eyes and offer some application/reflection- are you like Caleb and Joshua or the ten spies? Offer a time to pray, receive prayer, respond to Holy Spirit's prompting. (you can do this a couple of ways)

- Invite them to come forward to the front/altar for prayer
- provide a personal response in their seat.
- Always remember that someone present may not have given their life to Jesus or have drifted from him. Invite the audience to a relationship with Him as their Lord and Savior.

Suggestions

1. **Make the message your own:** Include personal stories of how you experienced an impossibility.
 - Tell of a time when God miraculously provided for you.
 - Tell of a time when you had to pivot and trust God when you did not receive what you had asked for, but you learned more about how to trust in His timing, His providence.
2. **Make it an illustrated sermon.**
 - Put on sunglasses to show the example of looking through a different lens.
 - Bring grapes, honey, etc., and show what God promised them.
 - Bring a plastic grasshopper to show how small they were thinking compared to God's greatness.
 - *bring an item as a prop or use a photo on a screen.

3. Song Options

During the response time, play the song (live or the recorded version).

- Trust in God- Elevation Worship
- Firm Foundation- Maverick City Music
- Waiting Here For You- Jesus Culture
- I Lift My Hands- Christ Tomlin

Take the next step...

We invite you to check out our women's study on

Audacious Faith: Believing God in the Face of Impossibility

This six-week study will define biblical faith, address the questions head-on, and unpack what it means to have audacious faith.

- Week 1- Why faith matters
- Week 2- How faith works
- Week 3- How faith grows
- Week 4- Faith killers
- Week 5- Living out a life of faith
- Week 6- Audacious faith

Find these resources and more at women.ag.org and myhealthychurch.com