



**WEEK FOUR**

**ROOTED**



## **LEADER NOTES**

### **Leader Notes:**

- Can you believe it, we are more than half way through this series. I trust you're getting into some good discussions. This week, Brian is focusing on ROOT #3 – FAITH. He answers 4 questions...well not quite. He answers 3 of the 4. I think he got tired. First, what is faith? Second, why is faith important? Third, what does faith do for us? And fourth, how do we grow our faith? Again, he throws out this final question, but won't answer it until later in the series. By the way, next week is "ROOTED in the Word".
- Again, we've provided way more questions than you can probably get through. Please, please, please, don't miss out on spending some good time on application and prayer.
- Note: For the ice breaker questions, only use what works for your group. Even better yet, come up with your own questions. These are only suggestions and are meant to get the discussion going. Ice breaker questions are intended to warm everyone up and get them thinking about the topic at hand, which is "Faith."
- Have a great group time!

## **GETTING STARTED**

### **Icebreaker questions**

1. At the end of last week's video, Pastor Brian boldly stated that there is a "Silver Bullet" to our faith. Merriam Webster dictionary describes a silver bullet as something that acts as a magical weapon, especially one that instantly solves a long-standing problem. What do you need a silver bullet for in your life right now?
2. Do you know people whose faith in God is so strong that you could sometimes describe it as amazing? What is it that makes their confidence in God so strong?
3. Do you ever struggle with faith? *(Good, join the club. You can continue. This study is for you then. If you said No, let's talk!)*

**Review:** So far we've looked at being *ROOTED in Jesus* and *ROOTED in Forgiveness*. Before we move on to being *ROOTED in Faith*, here's a few review questions for you to answer together.

- Would anyone be willing to share the “one thing” you wanted to put into practice in living your relationship with Jesus?
- Did anyone write the things they need to know they are forgiven for and destroy it? How did you destroy it and how did that feel?

## EXPLORE

Root of Faith - Watch Pastor Brian's Video *Rooted in Faith*.  
Rooted # 4 Video <https://vimeo.com/365367865> 9:48

## DISCUSS

Faith - our third ROOT

It is impossible to please God... without **faith**.

*Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.*

### WHAT IS FAITH?

4. What is **your** definition of faith? What are some of the common misconceptions of what faith looks like? (*Does it mean you are certain about everything and have no doubts?*)
5. Pastor Brian defines it as “A belief or trust in someone or something, so strongly that you are willing to act upon it.” Do you like this definition? Why or why not? How does his illustration of the Niagara Falls story help to explain what Biblical Faith is?

### WHY IS FAITH IMPORTANT?

#### **READ Colossians 2:6-7**

*Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.*

6. The above verse states that our faith “roots” us, “establishes” us and “builds” us up. What are some specific ways this might get played out in our lives? In other words, how does our faith actually root, establish and build us up?

#### **Read Hebrews 11**

These people were able to benefit from faith. They were able to get plugged into what connects us to our spiritual realities. (A great opportunity to take turns reading a few

verses each)

7. Of these people of great faith listed above, who would you love to have coffee with and find out more about their walk of faith?

8. Hebrews 11:6 is the key verse. With that in mind, do you think it is possible to obey God and yet not please Him?

9. What does it look like to live in such a way to place our faith in the WORK of Christ, as well as in the PERSON of Christ?

### **WHAT DOES FAITH DO FOR US?**

Pastor Brian notes that faith does three things. It enables us to stand, live and walk. Take each passage, one at a time and discuss the implications.

**Faith enables us To Stand** - Read Romans 5:1-2

*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.*

10. What truths does faith help you to stand in and for? (For example, in this verse we have peace with God by faith, not by our works. We can stand on that! Can you think of others others?)

**Faith enables us To Live** - Read Galatians 2:20

*I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*

11. What does it mean to be “crucified with Christ”? How does that work alongside the idea of “**living** by faith?”

**Faith enables us To Walk** - Read 2 Corinthians 5:7

*For we walk by faith, not by sight.*

12. Of those 3 results of faith, which do you cling to the most right now? Why?

13. How does faith help you to **walk** through the uncertainties of life?

\*\*\*Bonus reading and question: Read the short section at the end of the curriculum and then discuss how craving clarity can actually eliminate the risk of trusting or putting our faith in God.

How do we Grow & Develop our FAITH? - Come back next week!

## APPLY

- Looking back on your life, what things has God used the most to grow your faith?
- Since faith is like a muscle it has to be exercised. How can you specifically exercise your faith this week?
- Spend time this week thanking God for giving you faith to stand, live and walk through life with Him.

## PRAY

Pastor Brian said that faith is believing enough to act on what you believe. Is there something God is calling you to do? How can we pray for you?

Be sure to check in on previous weeks' prayer requests.

### **Bonus Reading:**

"When the brilliant ethicist John Kavanaugh went to work for three months at 'the house of the dying' in Calcutta, he was seeking a clear answer as to how best to spend the rest of his life. On the first morning there he met Mother Teresa. She asked, 'And what can I do for you?' Kavanaugh asked her to pray for him.

'What do you want me to pray for?' she asked. He voiced the request that he had borne thousands of miles from the United States: 'Pray that I have clarity.'

She said firmly, 'No, I will not do that.' When he asked her why, she said, 'Clarity is the last thing you are clinging to and must let go of.' When Kavanaugh commented that she always seemed to have the clarity he longed for, she laughed and said, 'I have never had clarity; what I have always had is trust. So I will pray that you trust God.'"

Trusting God requires that we walk by faith, not by sight. That we learn how to bear with uncertainty, knowing we are secure in everlasting arms. That we surrender our plans, believing that what He has in mind is far above what we can even think to ask or imagine.

Today, instead of asking the Lord for clarity, ask Him to help you trust Him. He'll be faithful to do what He's promised.