

HINDRANCE

WEEK 2
FAITH
DANNY ANDERSON

God is always working.

God invites us to partner with Him.

May he give you the power to accomplish all the **good things** your faith prompts you to do. *2 Thessalonians 1:11*

We hinder the work of God when we lack faith.

"Daughter, be encouraged! Your **faith** has made you well." And the woman was healed at that moment. *Matthew 9:22*

Then he touched their eyes and said, "Because of your **faith**, it will happen." Then their eyes were opened and they could see! *Matthew 9:29*

He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. He was amazed at their **lack** of faith. *Mark 6:5-6*

"Such unbelief closes the channels of grace and mercy, so that only a trickle gets through to human lives in need." J.G. Miller

We believe but not completely.

"Have mercy on us and help us, if you can." "What do you mean, 'If I can'?" Jesus asked. "Anything is possible if a person believes." The father instantly cried out, "I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!" *Mark 9:22-24*

How do we increase our faith?

1. Focus on who God is.

The apostles said to the Lord, "Show us how to increase our faith." The Lord answered, "If you had faith even as small as a **mustard seed**, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'May you be uprooted and thrown into the sea,' and it would obey you!" *Luke 17:5-6*

"By referring to the tiny mustard seed after being asked about increased faith, he deflects attention away from the quantity of faith to the object of faith." John Piper

2. Saturate our minds with God's word.

So faith comes from **hearing**, and **hearing** through the word of Christ. *Romans 10:17*

3. Exercise our faith.

Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water." *Matthew 14:28*

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

ONE YEAR NEW TESTAMENT	SUNDAY 2 Timothy 2:1-22	MONDAY 2 Timothy 2:23-3:17	TUESDAY 2 Timothy 4:1-22
this week	october 23	october 24	october 25
WEDNESDAY Titus 1:1-16	THURSDAY Titus 2:1-15	FRIDAY Titus 3:1-15	SATURDAY Philemon 1:1-25
october 26	october 27	october 28	october 29
WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE 2 Thessalonians 1:11			

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For Group Discussion

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

Introduction

No one has perfect faith in God all the time. However, faith is a key component to God doing work in us and through us, so we must find ways to regularly increase our faith.

Discussion Questions

1. We've probably all experienced moments of big faith and moments of small faith. Share a time when you stepped out in "big" faith. What was the result?

Read Mark 9:14-24. Share a time when you struggled with a mixture of faith and doubt. Why did you doubt? Looking back, how did your struggle with faith and doubt hinder God from working in your situation?

2. Read Luke 17:5-6. Danny said, "A big faith is not about your quantity of faith. It's about who your faith is in." What does this mean to you?

Read Psalm 119:37. In what area of your life is God asking you to focus more on Him? How would God be able to work in you and through you in new ways if you focused more intently on who He is?

3. In order to increase our faith we must saturate our minds with God's word. Read Romans 10:17 and 12:2. How does the transformation of your mind increase your faith?

Share some ways you actively saturate your mind with God's word on a regular basis. Explain how and why these things have helped shape your faith.

What could you begin to do, or do more regularly, in this area so that your faith would increase?

4. We must remember, Jesus chooses to work where faith is present. Read Mark 6:5-6. How would you describe the type of faith God is looking for in us?

Small Group Questions Continued

Read Matthew 14:22-29. What is God telling you to do that will cause you to stretch your faith? What steps will you take this week to make sure your lack of faith is not a hindrance to the work God wants to do in you and through you?

OUTREACH: GROUPS IN ACTION

OUR CHURCH

Ask your small group leader about serving opportunities at Emmanuel. We need help with the host team, in the Children's Ministry, on the production team and on student ministries teams.

OUR COMMUNITY

As a group, think about skills, talents and passions you are able to use together, such as helping a single mom with yard work, visiting a nursing home to spend time with the residents, or repairing a vehicle for someone who can't afford to pay. Start discussing and praying about ways you can help meet the needs of those around you.

OUR WORLD

Start praying and planning for your opportunity to be a part of an Emmanuel team who travels to support one of our mission partners. For a list of our Global Mission Partnerships and the dates for upcoming trips, go to eclife.org/next-steps/serve/global/.

Action Step

Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming week.

My action steps are _____
_____.

I'm accountable for _____, and their action steps are _____.

My memory verse is _____.

This coming week, I'm praying for: