LION'S DEN - FAITH WALKERS

Group Conversation: What Are You Walking By?

Big Idea: Faith isn't just what you believe when everything is good. Faith is revealed by what you depend on and how you respond when what you see disagrees with what God has said.

Anchor Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:7 - "For we walk by faith, not by sight."

OPENING CONVERSATION

When you hear the word FAITH, what comes to mind?

What's the difference between believing God exists and actually depending on God?

Can somebody believe in God but still depend mostly on themselves?

CONVERSATION 1 - WHAT ARE YOU DEPENDING ON?

Series Truth: Faith is dependence upon God.

Everybody depends on something. Sometimes we depend on our intelligence, friends, money, popularity, abilities, emotions, what we can control, or what other people think about us.

Faith begins when our confidence moves away from ourselves and rests in God's faithfulness.

Hebrews 10:23: He who promised is faithful.

• What do young men your age tend to depend on instead of God?
• Why is depending on yourself sometimes easier than depending on God?
• How can you tell when you've stopped depending on God and started depending on yourself?

Scenario: You prayed about something, but nothing seems to be changing. You have an opportunity to take matters into your own hands. What would dependence on God look like in that situation?

CONVERSATION 2 - PROMISE OR PERCEPTION?

Series Truth: Perception reacts to circumstances. Faith responds to God's Word.

Romans 4:19-21: Abraham didn't pretend the facts weren't real. His body was old. Sarah was old. The circumstances looked impossible. But the facts of his situation did not change his confidence in God's faithfulness.

Faith doesn't say: "The problem isn't real."
Faith says: "The problem is real, but it doesn't have the final word."

• What's the difference between ignoring reality and walking by faith?
• What are some situations teenagers face where what they SEE can make it difficult to believe what God SAYS?
• One area where I have to choose promise over perception is _____.

CONVERSATION 3 - REACTION VS. RESPONSE

Series Truth: Faith responds. Fear reacts.

REACTION | RESPONSE

Reaction is often controlled by what happened. Response is determined by what you believe.

Acts 16:22-26: Paul and Silas had been beaten and imprisoned, yet they responded with praise before anything changed.

> **Pressure doesn't create what's inside you. It reveals what you've been depending on.**

• What's the difference between reaction and response?
• Why does praising before the breakthrough require faith?
• When pressure hits you, what usually comes out first - anger, fear, complaining, shutting down, prayer, or the Word?

CONVERSATION 4 - WHAT HAS YOUR ATTENTION?

> **Series Truth: Your focus feeds your confidence.**

Romans 4:20-21: Abraham became fully persuaded that God was able to perform what He promised.

If I constantly focus on the circumstance, the circumstance gets louder. If I continually remind myself of God's character and His promises, my confidence in Him grows.

• How do you become fully persuaded about something?
• What happens when you spend more time looking at the problem than looking at God's faithfulness?
• What gets most of your attention when something goes wrong - the problem, your emotions, people's opinions, or God's Word?

CONVERSATION 5 - FAITH WHEN GOD DOESN'T DO WHAT YOU EXPECT

> **Series Truth: Faith is confidence in God's character and faithfulness.**

Faith isn't confidence that everything will happen my way. Faith is confidence in God's character and faithfulness.

• Is God still faithful when He doesn't do what you wanted Him to do?
• Is faith trusting God to give me the outcome I want - or trusting God regardless of the outcome?
• Can you trust God's wisdom when His answer looks different from your request?
• What makes that difficult?

THE FAITH WALKERS CHECK-IN

1. What am I depending on right now?
2. Where have I been allowing perception to become louder than God's promise?
3. When pressure comes, do I normally react or respond?
4. What has been getting most of my attention lately?
5. Can I trust God's faithfulness even when I don't understand what He's doing?

> **Based on your answers, where does your faith need exercise?**

Faith is like a muscle - it has to be exercised.

LION'S DEN CHALLENGE

Identify ONE situation this week where you normally react.

STOP and ask:

"What am I depending on right now?"
"What would faith's response look like?"

Find what God's Word says and intentionally respond from that truth.

CLOSING

Faith Walkers aren't people who never experience fear. They aren't people who never have questions. They aren't people whose circumstances always look good.

Faith Walkers are people who have decided that God's faithfulness gets the final word.

When perception says one thing and God's promise says another: **I choose His promise.**
When emotions want me to react: **I respond from truth.**
When I don't know what to do: **I depend on Him.**
When I don't understand the outcome: **I trust His faithfulness.**

FINAL LION'S DEN DECLARATION

"I don't walk by what I see.
I don't live by how I feel.
I don't depend on myself.
I depend on God.
I choose His promise over my perception.
I respond in faith because the One who promised is faithful.
I AM A FAITH WALKER."