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SESSION SIX:

STEPPING OUT IN FAITH

Over the last five sessions, you've been given tools to help you minimize doubt's influence in your life. But let's be real—while we can minimize the role doubt plays in our lives, we can never totally eliminate it. Steps of faith are often filled with traces of doubt.

Most of us would prefer God remove our doubts before we move in faith. But often, God calls us to step out in doubt, and He increases our faith along the way. This is a truth we see time and time again throughout Scripture. If you want to see God do some things you've never seen before, then you're going to have to do some things you've never done before. That's how miracles get put in motion!

Whatever step you take, trust that God is with you. He's not waiting for you to have it all figured out—He's just wanting you to take a step of faith. And when you do, you'll see Him move in ways you've never imagined!



“For I assure you: If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will tell this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

Matthew 17:20

“Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen.”

Hebrews 11:1



GROUP DISCUSSION

Leader, read these questions aloud.

1. Looking back over your life, how has God increased your faith along the way?
2. In Matthew 14:28-30, Peter stepped out of his boat in the middle of a storm with both faith and doubt in his heart. Where do you feel God calling you to step out in faith? What doubts keep you “stuck in the boat”?
3. If you stepped out in faith (even with a little bit of doubt in your heart), who in your life could benefit from your obedience? How have you benefited from someone else’s step of faith? Do you think they had doubts when they took that step?
4. What has been your biggest takeaway from this study? What has God revealed to you?



CLOSING PRAYER

Select a volunteer to pray this closing prayer over the group:

“Father, thank You for calling us to come to You. Help us to live a life of faith and trust even as we have our doubts. Help us to obey You and do whatever it is You are calling us to do. We don’t want to miss out on a single miracle that You have for us, or the opportunity to be used by You to help others. In Jesus’ name, amen!”

WORK OUT THE DOUBT

PERSONAL STUDY

→ READ

In this well-known story, we read about Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, walking on water. Peter stepped out of his comfort zone with both doubt and faith in his heart. And when Peter's fears grew louder than his faith, Jesus was there—close enough to catch him when he fell.

Read Matthew 14:22-33. Pay attention to what led to Peter's faith and doubt.

→ RELATE

How can you relate to Peter in this story? Or do you relate more to the disciples in the boat? If so, why?

Do you think the other disciples regretted not walking on water that night? Why or why not?

→ REFLECT

In Matthew 14:28, Peter said, “Lord, IF it’s you, command me to come to you on the water.” What would you do *IF* you believed the Lord was in it and calling you to it?

When Peter saw the strength of the wind, he was afraid and began to sink (Matthew 14:30). What are you seeing (or believing) that’s causing you to sink or not step out right now?

Read the following Scriptures to see how people moved forward in faith, even when they had lingering doubts.

1 Samuel 14:1-14. (Jonathan and his armor-bearer)

What did Jonathan say in verse 6 that makes you think he had *both* doubt and faith?

What do you think some of Jonathan’s doubts would have been that day?

Daniel 3:16-18. (Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego)

In Daniel 3, King Nebuchadnezzar commanded that everyone in his kingdom bow to a golden statue. However, these three young men refused to bow in worship to a false god. Instead, they took a step out in doubt. What did they say to the king that makes you believe they lacked certainty in their situation?

They believed God *could* rescue them, but they weren’t sure that He *would*. They had faith in God’s power, but they didn’t have clarity regarding His plan to save them.

Next, read **Mark 9:14-26**. Why do you think the father said, “*IF* you can do anything...” in verse 22?

What else did the father ask Jesus in verse 24?

“Help my unbelief” might be one of the most powerful prayers we can pray!

Finally, read **Mark 2:1-12**. How does this story inspire you?

The man on the mat couldn't get to Jesus on his own. Thankfully, he had friends to carry him. And when his friends were met with opposition, they didn't go home in defeat because they didn't let their doubts stop them. And as a result, they saw Jesus do a miracle!

Can you think of anyone in your life who is like the man on the mat? What miracle do they need Jesus to do?

→ RESPOND

If we're going to see some things we've never seen before, we have to do some things we've never done before. What do you feel God calling you to do next?

What **IF** you obeyed? One way to make sure doubt doesn't determine the direction of your life is to imagine all the ways God could come through for you. Instead of worrying about what could go wrong, imagine what could go right. And remember, we serve a God who loves to do more than we could ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20).

With that in mind, what **WILL** you do next? Make the decision to obey God today!
