

Keeping Spiritually Fit



What can you do to get to know God better so you find it easier to trust him and step out in faith?

The start of a new year is a great time to commit to reading the Bible every day. There are so many resources to help you, just ask if you'd like support in getting started.

Out and About This Week



Many of us find it difficult to share our faith in Jesus with family and friends.

As we have seen in Acts 9, the step of faith taken by Ananias in reaching out to Saul, wouldn't have felt comfortable but brought great fruit for God's kingdom.

It is a reminder that God can change anyone.

Prayer For Today



Father, as I adventure with you today be the compass that guides me, the light that shines on my path, the only one I follow. Amen.

Based on 'If You Want To Walk On Water, You've Got To Get Out Of The Boat' – John Ortberg

Sunday 21st January 2018

2 Kings 5v1-14, Acts 9v1-19 **'Getting Your Feet Wet'**

Over and over again, the Bible records that people had to trust God and take the first step of obedience to God's command in order to experience his faithfulness. In our readings this week we discover what happens when both Naaman and Ananias take a step of faith into the unknown.

'If I am going to experience a greater measure of God's power in my life, it will usually begin by my acting in faith, trusting God enough to take a step of obedience. Simply acknowledging information about his power is not enough. I have to get my feet wet.' – John Ortberg



Verse to Remember



Hebrews 11v1:

'Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.'



Homegroups (or private study)

Acts 9 v 1-19

Icebreaker: Reflect on your life: what activities and causes have brought you most internal joy and fulfilment?

- What do you see as the difference between a calling and a career?
- How do we know when God is calling us to do something?
- Why is it important for each of us to discern God's calling *before* we make high risk decisions? How do we go about doing that?
- What is the danger in thinking that we simply need to conjure up more faith in God in order to be able to step out of the boat?
- Why would Ananias have been reluctant to do what God was asking him?
- Physical safety is a comfort zone we tend to guard closely. What other things can hold us back from being obedient to God? (see Matthew 6v19-34, Jeremiah 9v23-24)
- What is the result of Ananias' obedience to the Lord?
- How do you think this experience would have affected his faith?
- Share some times when you have experienced God at work in and through you. What was challenging about following God's call? What happened that could only have happened with God's help?
- Sometimes we think we need to take a huge step in order to fulfil our calling, but big steps are often the result of many smaller steps. So whether we have a big, long-term vision of God's calling for us, or see only the next step, share with each other what you feel your calling is. Pray for each person in your group.

Extra Reading



The Bible makes it clear that God is at work in the world and that he wants us to be partners with him in accomplishing his purposes.

Psalm 104v10-32 describes some of the work God does to maintain life on earth. **Psalm 121v1-5** tells us that God never sleeps. He is always watching over us and protecting us.

2 Chronicles 16v9 says that God works constantly to strengthen people who are fully committed to him.

Isaiah 40v10-11 portrays God as a loving shepherd who faithfully tends his flock.

Encouraging One Another



Who do you talk with regarding your desires, dreams, failures, and efforts to step out of the boat and pursue God's calling?

God gave us our church family to 'cheer each other on.' It's important that we take opportunities to receive prayer and that we're willing to pray for others week by week.

My Quiet Times With God



Considering your life so far, in what ways are you satisfied or dissatisfied that your gifts match your pursuits? What has your life so far revealed about the person God has made you to be?

Try completing this sentence: I think my calling is...