



APRIL 25

SIGNS

STEPS OF FAITH

This weekend we continued our series in the Gospel of John and watched Jesus perform His second sign. We learned that if we want to grow in our confidence in Jesus, we need to take steps of faith when He calls us. This week we will explore passages of Scripture that encourage us to take these steps.

Before you jump in, take a few moments to prepare your heart by reading the following passage:

*By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. **Hebrews 11:8***



GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

What is one of the favorite vacations you have ever been on (as an adult or a child), and why?



READ

What does the Word say about this topic?

Take a few moments to **read the following passages**. As you read, write down any words or insights that jump out to you. We will be referring back to these passages later.

- Joshua 1:1-11, 3:1-17
- Matthew 14:22-36
- Mark 10:46-52
- Hebrews 11:1-12:2



REFLECT

What do these passages reveal about taking new steps of faith?

1. After listening to this weekend's message and having read through the passages above, what insight has spoken to you the most? Why?
2. Hebrews 11 is often called the "Hall of Faith" as it is filled with examples of great acts of faith by God's people. As you read through Hebrews 11, what are some thoughts or feelings that come up for you?
 - Which example of faith is the most encouraging for you? Why?
 - Which example of faith is the most challenging for you? Why?
3. God called Joshua to lead the people of Israel into the promised land by passing through the Jordan River at flood stage. In faith, the priests had to step into the waters of the Jordan

River at flood stage and lead the people through. What do you think was going through their minds as they took that first step?

- Do you think that God's promises to Joshua, in Joshua 1, changed the way Joshua thought about stepping out in faith?
- What are some promises of God that you hold close to your heart to encourage your faith and obedience?

4. In Matthew 14, we read the famous story of Peter walking on water. At first, Peter took a step of faith by walking on the water, but, out of fear, his faith began to falter and he began to sink.

- Have you ever stepped out in faith, then been overcome by fear or discouragement, causing you to give up? What was that experience? What did you learn from it?

5. Re-read Mark 10:46-52. How would you describe the faith of this blind man, Bartimaeus?

- How did the crowd respond to Bartimaeus' faith?
- How did Jesus respond to Bartimaeus' steps of faith?



RESPOND

In light of these truths, how does God want me to live?

1. This weekend, Michael taught that *"Our Confidence In Jesus Grows...When We Take Steps of Faith"*. What are some examples, from your life, of Jesus coming through when you have stepped out in faith?

- How did that experience grow your faith and confidence in Jesus?

2. Michael ended the message this week by asking *"What's...Your Next Step of Faith?"* How would you answer this question? Explain.

- Is there anything hindering you from taking this *Next Step of Faith*? Explain. If so, what would it take for you to move beyond this hindrance? What is hindering you from being obedient to His call?
- What is one action step you could take this week to take this *Next Step of Faith*?

3. Hebrews 11 gives many great examples of men and women of great faith. We then read, in the first two verses of chapter 12, that it is by looking to Jesus that we can live faithful lives even during times of hardship or persecution.

- How would looking to Jesus change your willingness to take steps of faith in your life?
- What do you think it means for you to *"look to Jesus?"*

4. How willing are you to act in faith and obedience? Are you willing, like Bartimaeus, to continue to step out in faith even when it's difficult, or even if the crowd and people around you are against you? Spend a few minutes praying, asking God to give you the courage and willingness to faithfully respond to His call on your life no matter what is going on around you.



TOPICAL PRAYER

Prayer is an important part of each Life Group. Often those who are new to a Life Group are intimidated to pray aloud if they have never done it before. Others are so comfortable with prayer that they can take over the prayer time without meaning to. For these reasons we suggest practicing topical prayer to help your group get comfortable praying together. Here are three basic guidelines:

- 1. Focus on a Single Topic/Request at a Time**
- 2. Pray Several Times Together**
- 3. Keep Requests/Prayers Short and Simple**