

Apply It:

1. If you knew that your faith would grow by going through a season of difficulty, but had the choice to avoid the difficulty (thereby also avoiding the growth), what would you choose? Is this an easy or difficult choice for you?
2. Do you agree or disagree that a great faith is a growing faith? Do you feel like you have a growing faith? Why or why not?

Next Week: Matthew 16:13-27, Peter's Confession

Prayer Requests:

Abundant Life
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 6/23/2019

Talk About It:

1. What insight, principle, or observation from Sunday's message did you find the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.
2. What are some things that are really easy for you to have faith in? What are some things that require "greater" faith?
3. How much do your current circumstances affect your perspective on life?
4. How do you usually respond to opposition? Is this always how you have responded, or has it changed over time?
5. Can you think of a time when your faith was tested? Explain.

Sunday's Sermon:

Faith That is Great, Matthew 15:21-28

After yet another negative interaction with the religious leaders, Jesus and His disciples withdraw to a Gentile region north of Galilee. While there, a "Canaanite" woman comes to Jesus asking for her daughter to be healed. Jesus then interacts with this woman in a way that seems almost adversarial, but in the end, He marvels at her great faith and grants her request.

1. How do you feel after reading Jesus' interaction with the Canaanite woman? Does Jesus' behavior here fit the mold of what we would today call "Christ-like?"
2. It's been said that our faith grows the most when it is challenged. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? What has caused your faith to grow?

Study It:

Two times in the Gospel of Matthew we see Jesus being impressed with someone's faith and both times they were Gentiles. We already looked at the story of the Canaanite woman, now let's look at the other instance: the story of the Roman Centurion.

Read Matthew 8:5-13

3. The Centurion's understanding of Jesus' authority came partially from his background in the military. In what ways does your own background help or hinder your relationship with Jesus?
4. This Gentile seems to understand what so many Jews were missing: Jesus is the promised Messiah. How do you think he came to that conclusion? How did you come to that conclusion in your life?

5. Why do you think Jesus answered the request of the Centurion, and yet there are many who have great faith and do not see their requests granted?

More than mere optimism, faith is continuing to trust in God, regardless of how things look. The author of Hebrews gives us several examples of those who were faithful to God, despite their circumstances.

Read Hebrews 11:4-13

6. How would you define faith?

6a.) How does your definition compare to the definition given in Hebrews 11:1?

7. Verse 13 tells us that "these all died in faith, not having received the things promised..." Do you think it's fair that they never saw the fulfillment of the things they were promised?
8. Out of all the examples of faith mentioned in this section, which do you find the most incredible? Why?