

2014

Session 12

The Summer Reading Challenge



**THE BIBLE IN 90 DAYS™**

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# Tonight's Outline

- Welcome Activities
- Reading Discussion (30 min)
- Video (20 min)
- Video Discussion
- This Coming Week's Reading
- Closing Prayer

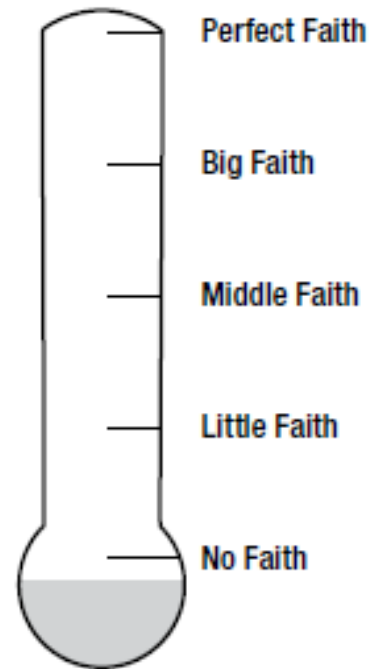


# Welcome Activities

- Opening Prayer

# Reading Discussion

- Faith-O-Meter



# Reading Discussion (cont.)

- Based on Matthew 14:25 – 31 and Matthew 26:69 – 75, where do you think Peter should be plotted on the Faith-O-Meter?
- Can you think of some individuals in the Gospels who demonstrated greater faith than Peter? Who were they? Where should they be plotted on the Faith-O-Meter?

# Reading Discussion (cont.)

- Has Peter's faith changed by the time he addresses a crowd of Jews in Acts 2:22 – 24? If so, why? Where would you place Peter on the Faith-O-Meter now?
- In general, what happens to the faith of the disciples after Jesus' resurrection?

# Reading Discussion (cont.)

- What does Matthew 9:29 – 30 suggest about the benefits of faith? Does one's degree of faith seem to be important?
- Discuss Matthew 17:19 – 20. What does it tell you about faith?

# Reading Discussion (cont.)

- What does Matthew 13:58 tell us about the consequences of a lack of faith during Jesus' ministry? What does this suggest about the relationship between faith and God's use of his power to, say, move mountains?
- (Personal Reflection) Where would you place yourself on the Faith-O-Meter? Why?



# Reading Discussion (cont.)

- How would you apply Jesus' statements in Matthew 21:21 – 22 to the “mountains” in your life? Based on your reading to date, is there a qualification to the promise in verse 22? If so, what is it? How do you — or could you — apply this in your everyday living?
- For a moment, try to imagine setting aside all of your doubts and limitations. What would you do if you had perfect faith? If appropriate, write your answer down on your “What Might Be Next for Me” list.

# Reading Discussion (cont.)

- Matthew, Mark, Luke and John give four different accounts of the life of Jesus. Discuss the possible reasons for these different accounts.

# Reading Discussion (cont.)

- Pick one: condemned to death by opponents (Matthew 27:1) or abandoned by friends (Matthew 26:69-75)?
- Jesus says, 'Everything is possible for him who believes.' (Mark 9:23b) What should you believe that you are NOT?

# Reading Discussion (cont.)

- Think back to Moses. In what ways are he and John the Baptist (Luke 3) alike?
- What attribute, specifically, made Jesus compare himself to Jonah (Luke 11:29-32)?

# Reading Discussion (cont.)

- Poor widow (Luke 21:1-4). Poor you. Were you to give with the widow's level of faith, to what or whom would you give?
- What fruit are you bearing as a branch of Christ's vine? (John 15:1-8)

# Reading Discussion (cont.)

- Do you think the disciples would have responded with such great commitment without viewing Christ's life, death & resurrection?

# Video

- Our video teacher is Dr. Mark Strauss



- Professor of New Testament at Bethel Seminary in San Diego, California

# Video Discussion

- Thoughts?
- Questions?
- Observations?
- Comments?



# This Coming Week's Reading

- Acts 6 through Philemon
- Reading Tips:
  - This week you will read all of Paul's letters to various churches and disciples. His letters are among the most personal and distinctive writing in all Scripture.

# This Coming Week's Reading (cont.)



- Romans Overview
  - The first of Paul's Epistles, this is a letter from the apostle Paul to the early church in Rome. In it, he covers several foundational themes such as faith, life in the Spirit and God's acceptance.
- 1 Corinthians Overview
  - Paul appeals to the church in Corinth to avoid division by following Christ rather than competing disciples. He then describes what it means to be followers of Christ and encourages people to give themselves always to the work of the Lord.
- 2 Corinthians Overview
  - In a second letter to the church at Corinth, probably written within a year of 1 Corinthians, Paul is replying to an evidently chilly reception by the Corinthians to his previous letter.

# This Coming Week's Reading (cont.)

- Galatians Overview
  - In this letter to the church in Galatia, Paul establishes his authority before warning the Galatians to accept no other gospel than the gospel of Christ.
- Ephesians Overview
  - Writing to the church in Ephesus, Paul focuses on unity in Christ and living as children of God.
- Philippians Overview
  - Paul's core message to the church in Philippi is to imitate Christ's humility.

# This Coming Week's Reading (cont.)

- Colossians Overview
  - Paul writes to the church in Colosse regarding rules for holy living.
- 1 Thessalonians Overview
  - Following an positive report from Timothy about the church of the Thessalonians, Paul writes to encourage them to continue strong in their faith.
- 2 Thessalonians Overview
  - Writing soon after the first letter, Paul reiterates that the Thessalonians should stand firm and not be alarmed by false prophecies.

# This Coming Week's Reading (cont.)

- 1 Timothy Overview
  - Paul writes to his protégé Timothy to instruct him in his leadership while in Ephesus.
- 2 Timothy Overview
  - Paul encourages Timothy to preach the Word, since “all Scripture is God-breathed,” and prepares Christians to be “thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

# This Coming Week's Reading (cont.)

- Titus Overview
  - Writing to another young disciple, Paul gives him qualifications for ordaining church elders and instructions on what must be taught to a variety of groups.
- Philemon Overview
  - In this brief letter to his friend Philemon, Paul asks him to free his slave Onesimus and charge anything Onesimus owes Philemon to Paul.



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# Closing Prayer