



Welcome

SERIES: I DOUBT IT

Message: Believe Me

Dr. Lance Watson, Senior Pastor

PRAYER: Almighty God, we confess that it is often easier to rely on our own strength than to step out in true, radical faith. Increase our faith today, helping us to not just believe in Your existence intellectually, but to live every moment as if you are actively present. Forgive us for the times we diligently chased after the things of this world and realign our hearts to earnestly seek you above everything else. Remind us daily that you are our ultimate reward, and that finding you is worth every ounce of our focus and devotion. We ask for the courage to make choices this week that please You, trusting completely in Your goodness and Your promises. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

ICEBREAKER: Name one area of your life where you acted like everything depended entirely on you, rather than trusting that God is actively involved?

INTRODUCTION: Genuine faith is the absolute, non-negotiable requirement for a relationship that pleases God. This faith requires both an intellectual conviction that God exists and an active trust in His character. Furthermore, it promises that God is not distant, but deeply attentive to those who deliberately pursue Him. Ultimately, faith is not a passive sentiment, but a diligent, lifelong pursuit that carries the ultimate spiritual reward.

BIBLE STUDY: Read Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV): But without faith *it is impossible to please Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **What was your biggest takeaway from the message?** What's one thing you learned? What questions came to mind as you listened to the message? What points did you find most insightful?
2. **The "Default Mode" Question:** Hebrews 11:6 says we must believe that God exists. For most of us in a small group, we've already checked that box intellectually. But practically speaking, what does your day-to-day life look like when you are living as if God *doesn't* exist? How can we spot the difference between intellectual belief and actual, lived-out belief this week?
3. **The "Earnestly Seeking" Audit:** The writer specifies that God rewards those that earnestly or diligently seek Him. If an outside observer looked at your schedule, your thought life, or your phone usage from this past week, what would they say you are most "earnestly seeking" right now? What is one practical boundary or habit change that could help you pivot that focus back to God?
4. **Redefining the Reward:** When people hear that God "rewards" those who seek Him, it's easy to slip into thinking about material blessings, answered prayers, or an easy life. But we know from the rest of Hebrews 11 that many heroes of faith faced immense hardship. In your own life, what has been the greatest "reward" of seeking God that *isn't* a material blessing or a perfectly resolved circumstance?

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5. **The “Pleasing God” Shift:** It’s easy to fall into the trap of thinking we please God by being perfect, achieving ministry success, or just doing a lot of religious things. But this verse says *faith* is what pleases Him. Where in your life right now is God asking you to step out in raw trust/faith, rather than just relying on your own competence, comfort, or checklist? What is holding you back from making that jump?

CHALLENGE: This week, replace one area of anxious striving with a deliberate act of trust, actively expecting God to meet you as you earnestly seek Him.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Take this time to share group announcements. Church wide and campus specific announcements can be found at www.myspbc.org. You can also “find, follow and like” our Facebook page at facebook.com/myspbc. Turn on your notifications.

CELEBRATIONS: Take this time to share praise reports (e.g. answered prayers, birthdays, anniversaries, promotions).

PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAYER: Take this time to share prayer requests. Close with prayer.

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We Care!

NOTICE: As a small group leader, we depend on you to show members that we care. Here's a list of resources to help you.

FOR PRAYER:

CALL: 804.463.2472

EMAIL: prayer@myspbc.org.

FOR COUNSELING:

CALL: 804.643.6177

EMAIL: care@myspbc.org

TO REQUEST A HOSPITAL VISIT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (For Emergencies)

EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST FUNERAL SUPPORT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (Pastor On Call)

EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO FIND A SUPPORT GROUP:

CALL: 804.643.6177

EMAIL: care@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:

CALL: 804.643.4000

EMAIL: emergencyassistance@myspbc.org.

TO CONTACT MY LIFE STAGE PASTOR: CALL: 804.643.4000 and Press 1 for the Dial by Name Directory

EMAIL:

- Imagination (0-10): Vernita Williams: Vernita.Williams@myspbc.org
- SMB (11-19): Martina Jones-Smith: Martina.Jones-Smith@myspbc.org
- Dreamchasers (20-29): Juan Shackelford: juan.shackelford@myspbc.org
- Aspire (30-39): Lance Watson, Jr.: lance.watsonjr@myspbc.org
- Fusion (40-49): Michelle Townsend: michelle.townsend@myspbc.org
- Encore (50-59): Lisa Johnson: lisa.johnson@myspbc.org.
- Prime Time (60-69): Maceo Freeman: maceo.freeman@myspbc.org
- Refiners (70+): Roscoe Jones: roscoe.jones@myspbc.org

*GPS is a study guide based on the weekend message. The purpose of this guide is to assist small groups in study.
Previous GPS Guides are available online at www.myspbc.org.*



Small Group Leader Guide

Would you like to START or JOIN a Small Group at Saint Paul's?

Most existing groups are open to new group members, and new groups begin on a regular basis. If you have friends in a small group, ask about joining their group. If you are new to Saint Paul's and are looking for a place to connect, please feel free to contact us and we will do our best to help you find the right group.

Leader Tips:

The GPS document is a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you must use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through while others will be over in a few seconds!

1. Don't teach the lesson. The lesson was taught on the weekend. Just ask questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our small groups. So, have fun with the people in your group.

Agenda for a Small Group Gathering

Gathering Time

Take 5-10 minutes to welcome everyone, catch up and if planned, share some food!

Discussion Time

Here's a suggested format:

1. **Ice Breaker** – Lighthearted icebreaker question (5-10 min.)
2. **Discussion** - Discussion time, Bible study, application challenge (30-40 min.)
3. **Prayer** – Prayer requests and praying for one another (10-20 min.)
4. **Planning** – Remind the group of how we serve together (e.g. usher, sing, greet, pray, etc.)