

Week 5 – Belief, October 27, 2024

Play Video for Week 5 Unfinished Belief. Share reflections from the video . Then, take to prayer before you begin the rest of the lesson. Watch the video at thevillagechristianchurch.com/unfinished/.

Opening Discussion Questions

1. Describe a time God called you to do something that seemed crazy or impossible for you to do.
2. As God began to work through you to do the impossible, what did you find the most surprising?
3. How did this experience prepare you for the next time God calls you to do something impossible?

Further Discussion From Scripture

Read the following Scripture passage and discuss the questions as a group. You may want to have each group member journal their answer first in the provided space before discussing together, as a means of encouraging all to participate more deeply.

BELIEVE BIG WITH A HUMBLE SPIRIT

“Then the men got up from their meal and looked out toward Sodom. As they left, Abraham went with them to send them on their way.

“Should I hide my plan from Abraham?” the Lord asked. “For Abraham will certainly become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed through him. I have singled him out so that he will direct his sons and their families to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just. Then I will do for Abraham all that I have promised.”

So the Lord told Abraham, “I have heard a great outcry from Sodom and Gomorrah, because their sin is so flagrant. I am going down to see if their actions are as wicked as I have heard. If not, I want to know.”

The other men turned and headed toward Sodom, but the Lord remained with Abraham. Abraham approached him and said, “Will you sweep away both the righteous and the wicked? Suppose you find fifty righteous people living there in the city—will you still sweep it away and not spare it for their sakes? Surely you wouldn’t do such a thing, destroying the righteous along with the wicked. Why, you would be treating the righteous and the wicked exactly the same! Surely you wouldn’t do that! Should not the Judge of all the earth do what is right?”

And the Lord replied, “If I find fifty righteous people in Sodom, I will spare the entire city for their sake.”

Then Abraham spoke again. “Since I have begun, let me speak further to my Lord, even though I am but dust and ashes. Suppose there are only forty-five righteous people rather than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?”

And the Lord said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five righteous people there.”

Then Abraham pressed his request further. “Suppose there are only forty?”

And the Lord replied, “I will not destroy it for the sake of the forty.”

“Please don’t be angry, my Lord,” Abraham pleaded. “Let me speak—suppose only thirty righteous people are found?”

And the Lord replied, “I will not destroy it if I find thirty.”

Then Abraham said, “Since I have dared to speak to the Lord, let me continue—suppose there are only twenty?”

And the Lord replied, “Then I will not destroy it for the sake of the twenty.”

Finally, Abraham said, “Lord, please don’t be angry with me if I speak one more time. Suppose only ten are found there?”

And the Lord replied, “Then I will not destroy it for the sake of the ten.” – Genesis 18:16-32

1. The point of this story is relentless prayer for people who need to be navigated to God. Something to remember as we talk about this story is that Jesus came and the gospel story was fulfilled. He literally paid for the sins of the whole world - of every single woman and man - so that people in cities would not have to be destroyed as a result of sin. God uses this story to remind us that it is important for us to pray big, bold prayers, believing God will act in accordance with His Word. Are you a person of big belief in what God can do? Do you pray big, bold prayers?
2. This Unfinished journey is not about raising \$500,000. Any of us who still think that have missed the point, This Unfinished journey is about 100% of us going before God and determining what a big, bold, believing faith, a humble spirit, and a sacrificing heart looks like as it relates to our generosity. It is about 100% of us laying it on the line for God and holding nothing back. Is this what you’re doing for Unfinished? Is this how you’ve been thinking about your giving and sacrifice? Are you going to believe big that

God will use you to navigate unfinished people to Him in ways He has never done before in your life or mine? Reflect on this and share your heart, thoughts, nervousness, excitement, prayers with your group as it relates to this.

3. How can this Small Group be praying for you as you make your Unfinished commitment this upcoming weekend?
4. Big, bold, sacrificial prayers are what move mountains for God. Write out some of those big prayers of belief you have for The Village in the next two years. Write them out, and then pray with your group about each one in a bold fashion, believing God can and will fulfill these prayers in accordance with His Word. Write them out below:

COMMITMENT ALLOWS GOD TO DO IMMEASURABLY MORE THAN WE COULD ASK OR IMAGINE

When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. – Ephesians 3:14-19

Allow this passage to be a final encouragement and inspiration as we seek to surrender to Him and His UNFINISHED path for us and to honor Him with our UNFINISHED commitments. All He is asking is that we boldly trust Him with faith beyond the horizon. He has provided promises to us, but He is asking us to respond. Will we? Will we honor Him with all that we have and all that we are? Will our commitment be something that causes us to say we are standing before Him with confidence, knowing that we have made a decision that causes us to rely only on Him, for Him to chart our path? His power will be at work within us, so long as we commit our lives to boldly trust in Him. Immeasurably more generosity. Immeasurably more commitment. Immeasurably more impact both in us and through us.

This is the UNFINISHED journey...