



Resilient - Faith

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (Page 1)

Traditional Model

What word best describes your relationship with God these days: Resilient? Fragile? OK?

How would you describe what “saving faith” is?

In your opinion, what is the difference between saving faith and deep faith?

What do 2Cor 5:7 and Gal 2:20 say about faith? What would you need to change in order for your faith to model these verses?

What you believe about God is the most important thing about you? Agree or disagree? Why?

Using the outline and verses provided above, go through each statement and verses and ask the group to make observations.

Which of the 3 faith deepening points is your strongest? Which one could use some attention on your part? What could you do differently to deepen your faith?

What would you add to the list?

What faith deepening initiatives do you think would make Sunridge better?



GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (Page 2)

Contemplative Model

Ask these of the group or break into groups of 2-3 to allow people to interact more.

What are you learning about God from the message?

What are you learning about yourself from the message?

What questions did the message leave you with?

What is God doing in your heart lately?

What things do you feel are getting in the way from what God wants to do in you?

How can I pray for you?

Leader's Guide: Resilient Faith

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love (1 Corinthians 13:13). What is it about these words that prompted the Apostle Paul to write that when all is said and done, faith, hope and love will remain? And what might we learn about our own resiliency from these words? *Resilient* is about a new way of looking at life that enables us to stand firm through our personal ups downs, and a new vision for Sunridge.

Deepen faith. Bring hope. Live love.



OUTLINE & SCRIPTURES

RESILENT:

Of an object: Able to recoil or spring back into shape after bending, stretching or being compressed. *Flexible, durable, pliable, strong, sturdy*

Of a person: Able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult situations. *Tough, hardy, buoyant, stout, irrepressible*

1Co 13:13 And now these three **remain**: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Remain = endure, stand, strong, sturdy, tough

RESILIENT is about a new way of looking at life that enables us to stand firm through our personal ups downs, and a new vision for Sunridge.

The gospel is the well from which all three spring

Col 1:5 the **faith** and **love** that spring from the **hope** that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, **the gospel**

Saving faith is the starting point...

Ro 5:1 we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

Ga 2:16 know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ.

Eph 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--

Saving faith is the starting point... but saving faith is *only* a starting point

Ga 2:20 The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God,

2Co 5:7 We live by faith

The day you become a Christian should not be your peak faith moment.

Our best faith day should be the NEXT – when we begin living out a life of faith

Faith is meant to grow deeper over time

Lu 17:5 The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"



Faith = Trust. Confidence in God.

Ps 1:3 like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither.

Resilient faith is *deeply rooted*

Col 2:7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith

A tree never stops growing roots.

Shallow roots blow over

Shallow roots can't survive draught

Shallow faith doesn't last

DEEPENING FAITH:

1. Feed faith on purpose and regularly

2Pe 1:5 Make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Php 3:10 **I want to know Christ** and the power of his resurrection

Knowing Christ more deeply means something different depending on the status of your current relationship

- Read the gospels this year
- Do church plus 1
- Emulate Jesus

2. Grow roots within a forest of others

1Th 3:2 We sent Timothy, who is our brother and God's fellow-worker in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith,

When trees grow near each other their roots intertwine making them stronger

Google *mycorrhizal fungi* or listen to Radio Lab (podcast) from 7/30/16: *From Tree to Shining Tree*

1Th 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and **build each other up**, just as in fact you are doing.



If you don't see it – start it

3. Cultivate a heart that allows the roots of faith to grow deep

Heb 10:22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith

What is the Gospel?

The Gospel is the “good news” that Jesus entered into our broken world to rescue us from sin. The good news is that through Christ’s redemptive sacrifice on the cross, sinners are pardoned, the undeserving are given grace, and the broken are restored. There is no sin too heinous for God’s forgiveness. There is no person so good in-and-of-themselves that they do not require forgiveness. Salvation is a free gift of God to anyone who genuinely acknowledges their brokenness and confesses saving faith in the Son of God. It doesn’t take strong faith, just genuine faith in order to be saved.

An example prayer you could pray:

Heavenly Father, I acknowledge I'm broken and a sinner. I believe that Christ died on the cross for sin, and through his resurrection overcame sin and death. I believe in you. I thank you for saving me.

The good news does not end with a confession of faith. New faith can grow into deep faith if cultivated. Let someone at Sunridge know about your new-found faith, and inquire about our new believer’s resource: God Time: Your First 31 Days. Follow Christ wholeheartedly by professing your faith publicly through baptism, learning the Bible by attending church regularly and pursuing the unique calling of Jesus in your life!