
Leading Faith

Faith to Lead by

World Outreach Church
Sermon Discussion Guide
From Services of March 9th and 10th

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Ice Breaker

- Who is one of your favorite authors?

It is time to change..... We are desperately needed to lead with our faith, to take a place, hold a line, rebuild the walls, re-cast the vision of heritage, to take our faith outside the walls of weekend worship and engage the people around us with the reality of Jesus our Lord. The time has passed that we can't afford to wait for someone else to take that place. Let's respond to an invitation, a new response with the Lord. Whatever has defined us previously, God has something better for us---if we dare to say yes.

We are people of faith, who believe God is real and engaged in our lives. Yet, we often have little confidence in leading with our faith.

1. Discuss a few reasons that we aren't confident in leading people with our faith? What are we afraid of or what intimidates us?

I. To Be Avoided

Matthew 23:16-26 (NIV[®])

¹⁶ **"Woe to you,** blind guides! You say, 'If anyone swears by the temple, it means nothing; but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.'

¹⁷ You **blind fools!** Which is greater: the gold, or the temple that makes the gold sacred?

¹⁸ You also say, 'If anyone swears by the altar, it means nothing; but if anyone swears by the gift on it, he is bound by his oath.' ¹⁹ You **blind men!** Which is greater: the gift, or the altar that makes the gift sacred? . . .

²³ **"Woe to you,** teachers of the law and Pharisees, **you hypocrites!** You give a tenth of your spices--mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law--justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.

²⁴ You **blind guides!** You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.

²⁵ **"Woe to you,** teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.

²⁶ Blind **Pharisee!** First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

2. Woe indicates impending judgement. What were the woes expressed?
3. Is it possible to be in church and practice religion but be out of step with the Lord? How do we guard against the possibility of falling or becoming deceived? Knowing what to pick up is as important as knowing what to lay down. How have you learned to be effective with this principle?

II. Game Time

A. Practitioners of Faith

Throughout the story of Scripture, God works through people and He is still doing this. If there is going to be renewal/revival it has to start with us....the Holy Spirit will expand our vision.

4. Look up and read - Luke 10:1-2, 17 (NIV[®])

These men were sent ahead of Jesus. How did they feel leaving and how did they feel on return?

What can we learn from the way these disciples were sent and how they handled their assignment?

Acts 2:46-47 (NIV[®])

⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. **They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,** ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And **the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.**

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5. What was the practice of this new congregation? What was the outcome?
 6. How have you been part of this type of experience?

B. Let's Pray - Here are some points that we have embraced as we have learned to pray for people effectively.

- Listen
 - Invite God into the circumstance (briefly) – a one sentence prayer.
 - Move on – don't stand waiting for affirmation.
7. Discuss the above directives and why each is important to the Let's Pray moment.

1. Beggar Healed

Acts 3:4-8 (NIV^o)

⁴ Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" ⁵ So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. ⁶ Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. **In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.**" ⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. ⁸ He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.

8. How long was the prayer by Peter and John? Why are we tempted to pray lengthy prayers?

2. Believer's Prayer (after Peter & John are released)

Acts 4:29-31 (NIV^o)

²⁹ Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. ³⁰ Stretch **out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.**" ³¹ After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

9. After their release from prison the disciples had a prayer...what was it? Discuss the courage behind that prayer especially after their current circumstance.

3. Jesus' story gaining momentum (disciples learning)

Acts 5:14-16 (NIV^o)

¹⁴ Nevertheless, **more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.** ¹⁵ As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. ¹⁶ Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.

10. We are a living expression of the power of God in spite of us...God moves & receives the glory. Have you ever experienced a God event? What was it? Do you need a God event today?

4. Beyond Jerusalem

11. Look up and read - John 3:1-7 (NIV^o)

What brought Nicodemus to Jesus? What was Jesus' response? What was Jesus' gentle rebuke?

Acts 4:12 (NIV^o)

¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

Prayer of Repentance – Let's pray together

Almighty God, I am a sinner and I need a savior. I believe Jesus is your son, he died on a cross and was raised again to life. Forgive me of my sin. I forgive everyone who has sinned against me. Jesus be Lord of my life. I will give you first priority, serve you as my Lord and King. Thank you for accepting me into the most remarkable family in creation, the family of God. amen.

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