

DESCENDING INTO GREATNESS

“Why Jesus May Not Work For You”

1. **Review last week’s prayer requests and update each other**
2. **Review the Big Idea:** What did you hear this morning?

Regardless of where we are at on our spiritual journey it is a challenge each and every day to fully trust God. At the back of our minds we may be asking, ‘will He really come through?’ ‘Will my life work out the way I want it to?’ It really gets confusing when things don’t work out how we envisioned them, or when life takes us in a completely different direction than we had planned. God isn’t in the business of fulfilling our personal wish lists...He’s not Santa! At the same time, God loves us deeply and definitely has our best in mind. The Bible says that He is ‘for us and not against us.’ That may not look exactly like we thought, but regardless of what is going on in our lives God wants to show us that He cares and is there for us. As we acknowledge who God is and put our trust in Him one step at a time we will experience more of what God had planned for us. After all, He said He would give us ‘life to the full’ or ‘life in abundance’. Our challenge is to put our whole lives in God’s hands...and leave them there in His capable, loving hands!

TO SEE JESUS “WORK” FOR YOU INVOLVES:

1. ACKNOWLEDGING WHO JESUS IS

“When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. He shouted at the top of his voice, ‘What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won’t torture me!’”

Mark 5:6-7 [NIV]

“God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.”

Ephesians 3:20 [MSG]

- ***What is it about my perception of God that makes me not trust Him fully in every area of my life?***
- ***What do I have to do to grow in my understanding of who God is so that I do trust Him with my life?***

2. AGREEING TO JESUS' GOAL

“A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion.”

Mark 4:37-38a [NIV]

“I came so they might have life, a great full life.”

John 10:10 [NLV]

- ***How would you describe God's 'goal' for your life?***
- ***What is it about us that makes us 'want what we want' instead of what God wants for us?***

3. ACTING BOLDLY IN FAITH

“When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, ‘If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.’... He said to her, ‘Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.’”

Mark 5:27-28, 34 [NIV]

“In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”

James 1:17 [NIV]

- ***In what area of your life do you find it most difficult to trust God?***
- ***What decisions do you need to make to take the next step of trusting God with your life?***

‘Rubber meets the Road’

- ***Spend some time praying for each other; that God would help you grow in trusting Him.***

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO SEE JESUS “WORK” FOR ME?

BY PUTTING YOUR WHOLE LIFE IN JESUS' HANDS AND TRUSTING HIM TO MAKE IT FULL.