

Sister Talk: Resuscitate Your Faith

Going Deeper — Week 18: Obedience—Faith in Action

Memory Verse:

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

James 2:17 NIV

Gratitude: There is no better way to remember who you are... whose you are... than to give thanks. Write down things you are thankful for this week.

This Week's Spiritual Discipline

Throughout our faith journeys we have practiced a variety of spiritual disciplines. Spiritual disciplines are simply habits or activities we exercise to help us grow in faith. Each week we will make a suggestion for you to try.

Exercise Your Faith: Just Do It

So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. James 4:17

This week, do what you know to the best of your understanding, by faith. Choose at least one thing you've failed to do because it doesn't make sense, seems embarrassing, you don't understand what it means, or you simply don't think you have the time.

For example, if you have not been tithing because the math doesn't add up, this week do it anyway. Tithe on this week's income.

You know what is right. You know the excuses you've made. Go ahead. Write the note. Give the gift. Clean up someone else's mess. Whatever it is... this week just do it!

Obedience — Faith in Action

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Day 1</i></p> <p>Read Exodus 12:1-13 Count how many actions the Israelites were to take in following God’s command for Passover. What happened to the families who did not act on God’s command? What was the blood on the door?</p> <p>The blood was a sign of obedience. God’s judgment passed over houses with the blood. No plague entered.</p> <p>Read John 12:47-48 Why did Jesus come? What is the sign of receiving Jesus? Who will judge on the last day?</p> <p>Jesus, the Lamb of God, came to save. Just like the blood of the Passover lambs protected from judgment, so does the blood of Jesus. Evidence of receiving Jesus is obedience to His Word.</p> <p>Are there signs of receiving Jesus in your life? What are they?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Day 4</i></p> <p>Read Genesis 39 Joseph’s jealous brothers sold him into slavery, a result of his obedience to his father’s instructions to go check on them. What else happened to Joseph? Who was with Joseph? What does the Word say about Joseph?</p> <p>The Lord was with Joseph. He is called successful and loved by God. Yet, his obedience led to unjust, unfair consequences. Our acts of obedience do not always turn out the way we think they should.</p> <p>Read Philippians 2:1-8 What are we called to do and be? Where did Jesus’s perfect sinless obedience lead Him?</p> <p>Being obedient does not mean a trouble-free life. How does your faith hold up when you obey to the best of your understanding, but end up hurt?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Day 2</i></p> <p>Read James 2:14-20 What is a sign of faith?</p> <p>If faith does not lead to obedient action, what is it?</p> <p>Are you willing to recognize faith without works is useless?</p> <p>James gives a great illustration of futile faith, wishing someone well, but not actually doing anything to help them when you are able. Sometimes we use prayer as an excuse not to do anything. We’ll say “I’ll pray for you…” rather than doing what God may be pressing us to do.</p> <p>This week, ask God to bless you with opportunities to work out your faith. When you see someone in need, if it is within your power and ability, do something to help. Even if all you can do is pray, offer to pray for them right then and there.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Day 5</i></p> <p>Read John 8:31-32 Look up the word <i>abide</i>. What does it mean to <i>abide</i> in His word or teaching? Who are those who abide in His word?</p> <p>The NLT translates the Greek for <i>abide</i> as <i>remain faithful to</i>. To abide in His teaching is to obey His teaching. Live it out in your life, not just know it, but do it.</p> <p>What are the benefits of obeying His teachings?</p> <p>Knowledge of the truth and freedom. These are the pay-offs for faithful obedience. Where are you when it comes to truth and freedom? Do you have any? Consider why or why not. What is your response to what you’ve come to know?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Day 3</i></p> <p>Read Joshua 3:1-17 The Israelites had to cross the Jordan River to enter the Promised Land. What state was the Jordan River in at the time of their crossing? What were the priests instructed to do? Sometimes, God’s provision doesn’t come until a step of faithful obedience is taken.</p> <p>Read Hebrews 11:1 Faith requires acting on God’s call even when it doesn’t appear to be safe or sensible, trusting Him to do what He says He will.</p> <p>Have you missed opportunities because you didn’t see a way? Ask God to begin preparing you to obey by faith.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Want to learn more?</i></p> <p>Sister Talk: Going Deeper is an extension of Sister Talk: Resuscitate Your Faith. You can find more on Obedience—Faith in Action by going to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SisterTalkFaith.com</p> <p>Scroll to the bottom and search Week 4/Day 3 Obey to review more information on active obedient faith.</p> <p>Sign up to receive blog posts by e-mail and each day’s lesson will come straight to your inbox.</p> <p>Follow us on Instagram for encouragement along the journey at sistertalkfaith.</p>