

Journey CHURCH

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Session 2 Leader Guide

EXPECTING THE BEST

"Faith assures us of things we expect and convinces us of the existence of things we cannot see." HEBREWS 11:1 (GW)

Faith is not just optimism or positive thinking. Faith is the confident assurance that God is in control of the future, and that he plans what is best for my life because he loves me.

"I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you." PSALM 32:8 (NLT)

- When I expect the best it _____ God.

"This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down ... and the whole world will know that there is a God." 1 SAMUEL 17:46 (NIV)

"Expect great things from God, and attempt great things for God."
-William Carey

- When I expect the best it _____ my ability.
- When I expect the best it _____ others.

If I want to expect the best from God, I must:

- _____ every morning.

"In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly." PSALM 5:3 (NIV)

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- _____ throughout the day.

"Though the wicked hide along the way to kill me, I will quietly keep my mind upon your promises." PSALM 119:95 (TLB)

"I've banked your promises in the vault of my heart." PSALM 119:11 (THE MESSAGE)

"Let's keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. [God] always keeps his word." HEBREWS 10:23 (THE MESSAGE)

- _____ even when things look bad.

"O my soul, don't be discouraged. Don't be upset. Expect God to act! For I know that I shall again have plenty of reason to praise him for all that he will do." PSALM 42:11 (TLB)

- _____ other believers.

"Bad company corrupts good character." 1 CORINTHIANS 15:33 (NLT)

"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together...Instead, let us encourage one another all the more." HEBREWS 10:25 (GNT)

"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds." HEBREWS 10:24 (NIV)

"Without faith it is impossible to please God." HEBREWS 11:6 (NIV)

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DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. What Goliath are you up against right now? How has learning about the power of expecting the best in faith encouraged you to approach that giant in a different way?
2. David developed a daily spiritual routine by tuning in to God, thinking on his promises, trusting God's love, and talking with other believers. Which of these four disciplines is easiest for you? Which one is more difficult and why? What practical step will you take this week to begin strengthening yourself in that area of spiritual discipline?
3. When you expect the best in faith, it honors God, increases your ability, and encourages others. Share an experience when you expected the best from God and how your attitude encouraged another person.
4. What is the difference between biblical faith and positive thinking?

LIVING ON PURPOSE

5. Ministry: Do you know someone who is facing a Goliath right now? How can you encourage them this week with the truths you learned in this session? Send them a text or email right now and tell them you are praying for them. Then make a note in your calendar to give them a call, pay them a visit, or send them a note of encouragement this week.
6. Who has been a VIP-Very Inspirational Person-in your life? How have they encouraged you in your faith? Send them a thank you note, text, or email this week.