

Journey CHURCH

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Session 4 Leader Guide

TAKING THE INITIATIVE

Have you been waiting for God to do something in your life? Maybe God is waiting for you to do something first.

"Show me your faith without doing anything, and I will show you my faith by what I do ... Faith that does nothing is worth nothing."

JAMES 2:18-20 (NCV)

When you take the initiative and step out in faith, you can hold on to God's promise that he will give you the strength to do what he is asking you to do.

- Obey God _____.

If there is ever a time that you really ought to be in a hurry, it's when God tells you to do something, whether you feel like it or not.

"I will quickly obey your commands." PSALM 119:32 (NCV)

"Without delay I hurry to obey your commands." PSALM 119:60 (GNT)

What are you pretending God isn't telling you to do? If you want the blessing of God on your life, you must take the initiative and obey God immediately. Delayed obedience is disobedience.

- Obey God _____.

Partial obedience is disobedience.

"Lord, you gave your orders to be obeyed completely." PSALM 119:4 (NCV)

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"Your job is not to decide whether (God's) law is right or wrong, but to obey it." JAMES 4:11 (TLB)

The oldest temptation is not lust, lying, or gluttony. It is the temptation to doubt God's Word. Every sin starts with doubt.

"Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own." PROVERBS 3:5 (THE MESSAGE)

- Obey God _____.

"Obey him gladly." PSALM 100:1 (TLB)

"I enjoy obeying your commands." PSALM 119:47 (NCV)

"Loving God means doing what he tells us to do." I JOHN 5:3 (TLB)

God measures your love by your obedience.

"If you love me, obey my commandments." JOHN 14:15 (NLT)

- Obey God _____.

"I am determined to obey you until I die." PSALM 119:112 (TLB)

"Just tell me what to do and I will do it, Lord. As long as I live I'll wholeheartedly obey." PSALM 119:33 (TLB)

"So let us keep on obeying the same truth we have already been following." PHILIPPIANS 3:16 (NLV)

If you are waiting for God to give you direction, and it's just not coming, ask him this question: "Lord, what have you already told me to do that I am not doing?"

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Faith is like a muscle. It only grows when you exercise it by taking the initiative and stepping forward.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. Review the four points of Pastor Rick's message. Which one do you need to work on most?
 - Obey God immediately, without delay, argument, or excuse.
 - Obey God completely, not picking and choosing the parts you like.
 - Obey God joyfully, with a pleasant attitude.
 - Obey God continually, not on and off or only when you feel like it.
2. Before we look forward, let's look back: Has God already told you to do something that you are not doing? For example, do you need to get baptized? Do you need to begin tithing? Do you need to begin a daily quiet time with God? Do you need to forgive somebody or ask for forgiveness? What is it for you? Have two or three of you share with your group the step of obedience you need to take.
3. Now let's look ahead: As you have prayed about stretching your imagination and getting God's dream for your life, what step of faith do you think God wants you to take? For example, are you facing a career decision? Do you need to share your faith with a lost friend or loved one? Is God telling you to get involved in a ministry or an outreach at church? What does daring faith look like for you? Have two or three of you share with the group what you believe God is asking you to do.

LIVING ON PURPOSE

4. Ministry: Take an inventory of the gifts and abilities God has given you. How could they be used to serve others in your church or community? Ask God if there is something he wants you to do for him, and then take the initiative to act on it this week. What will be your first step? Take a few minutes to discuss this with your group, then give it more thought in your quiet time tomorrow.