**Session 1**

**How *Faith* and**

***Dreaming***

**Are Connected**

**Looking Ahead**

Take a few minutes to introduce yourselves to your group and to review the Group Guidelines on page 91. Then discuss this question: How do you describe faith?

**Key Verse**

“Everything is possible for the person who has faith.”

**MARK 9:23** **GNT**

**Video Lesson**

Watch the session one video lesson now and fill in the blanks in the outline on pages 2 to 4. Refer back to the outline during your group discussion.

**Lesson Outline**

“Everything is possible for the person who has faith.”

**MARK 9:23 GNT**

“According to your faith let it be done to you.”

**MATTHEW 9:29 NIV**

“Without faith it is impossible to please God.”

**HEBREWS 11:6 NIV**

**The Six Phases of Faith:**

**Phase 1:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Nothing happens in your life until you start dreaming.

**How to know if a Dream is from God:**

1. God’s dream will always \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 God…is able to do far more than we would dare to ask or even dream of – infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes.

**EPHESIANS 3:20 TLB**

 If a dream comes from God, it’s going to be so big, you can’t do it on your own. You can only do it by faith.

 Without faith it is impossible to please God.

**HEBREWS 11:6 NIV**

2. God’s dream will never \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Phase 2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Nothing is going to happen to your dream until you wake up and put it in action.

**The Decision Phase:**

1. You must \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. You must \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Phase 3: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

There is always a waiting period between dream and fulfillment.

*“These things I plan won’t happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, do not despair, for these things will surely come to pass. Just be patient! They will not be overdue a single day!”*

**HABAKKUK 2:3 TLB**

God will not fulfill your dream immediately. Why? Because God wants to work on you before he works on the project.

**Phase 4: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

God uses difficulties to work on your faith and character.

At present you may be temporarily harassed by all kinds of trails. This is no accident – it happens to prove your faith, which is infinitely more valuable than gold.

**1 PETER 1:6-7 PHILLIPS**

**Phase 5: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Dead ends are a part of God’s plan for your life.

*At that time we were completely overwhelmed, the burden was more than we could bear, in fact we told ourselves that this was the end. Yet we believe now that we had this experience of coming to the end of our tether that we might learn to trust, not in ourselves, but in God who can raise the dead.*

**2 CORINTHIANS 1:8-9 PHILLIPS**

*They said to Moses… “We told you to leave us alone and let us to on being slaves of the Egyptians. It would be better to be slaves there than to die here in the desert.”*

**EXODUS 14:11-12 GNT**

Dead ends are a part of God’s plan for your life.

He has rescued us… and he will rescue us in the future. We are confident that he will continue to rescue us.

**2 CORINTHIANS 1:10 GW**

I am expecting the Lord to rescue me again, so that once again I will see his goodness to me.

**PSALM 27:13 TLB**

**Phase 6: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

The best response to a dead end is to expect God to act. What are you expecting God to do in your life?

Where God guides, God provides.

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|  *Great faith inspires great dreams.* *Great dreams require great faith.* |

**Living on Purpose**

1.

Which phase of faith are you currently in: Briefly explain your answer.

2.

Of all the people you know personally, who do you believe has the strongest faith in God? Why is their faith so strong?

3.

How does God’s dream go beyond anything you could ever think up or imagine on your own?

4.

When you understand the six phases of faith – dream, decision, delays, difficulties, dead ends, and deliverance – it prepares you for all that God wants to do in your future. Why is this so?

**Prayer Direction**

In what area of your life do you need your faith to be strengthened? Share your prayer requests, and then pray for each other. Use the Small Group Prayer and Praise Report beginning on page 7 to keep track of your requests.

**Putting It into Practice**

As you conclude this session, in what ways do you want God to help you grow spiritually and emotionally while you are pursuing his dream for your life?

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| *God is faithful, and what he promised to do, he will do. Where God guides, God provides. But it doesn’t happen overnight. You’ve got to go through all six phases of faith – dream, decision, delay, difficulty, and, finally, dead end – and then comes the deliverance.*  |

**Small Group Prayer and**

**Praise Report**

This is a place where you can write each other’s requests for prayer. You can also make a not when God answers a prayer. Pray for each other’s requests. If you’re new to group prayer, it’s okay to pray silently or to pray by using just one sentence:

**“God, please help \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”**

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| **Date** | **Person** | **Prayer Request** | **Praise/Update** |
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