



I'M IN

[RUN BY FAITH]

**SMALL GROUP GUIDE
WEEK 3**

SESSION 3

STRETCHING YOUR IMAGINATION

@ CHECKING IN

1. In the Living on Purpose section last week, you thought of a person you would encourage with the lessons you are learning about faith. Does anyone have a follow-up story to share?
2. Share a verse or insight that was especially meaningful to you in your I'M IN daily devotions this past week.

@ MEMORY VERSE

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him. 1 Corinthians 2:9 NLT

**@ WATCH THE VIDEO LESSON NOW.
FOLLOW ALONG IN YOUR OUTLINE.**

SESSION 3

STRETCHING YOUR IMAGINATION

With God's power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine. Ephesians 3:20 NCV

What are you asking? What are you imagining? Are your dreams limiting what God can do in your life? The question is not "Who do you think you are?" The right question is "Who do you think God is?" Let the size of your God determine the size of your dream.

1. You must let go of _____.

Doubt your doubts and believe your beliefs. Doubt is always a choice.

Anyone who doubts is like a wave in the sea, blown up and down by the wind . . . They should not think they will receive anything from the Lord. James 1:6-8 NCV

"Be bold and strong! Banish fear and doubt! For remember, the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9 TLB

TWO CAUSES OF DOUBT

- _____ your abilities

When they measure . . . and compare themselves to themselves, they show how foolish they are. 2 Corinthians 10:12 GW

If God only used perfect people, nothing would ever get done.

- _____ your failures

If you focus on your past mistakes and failures, you will miss out on what God wants to do in the present and in your future.

Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. Philippians 3:13-14 NLT

God uses people with checkered pasts. What matters is not where you have been, but where you are headed today.

2. Look for _____.

"I promised Moses I would give you this land, so I will give you every place you go in the land." Joshua 1:3 NCV

"Every one of you knows . . . [that] God has given you all the good things that he promised. Every promise he has made has been kept; not one has failed."
Joshua 23:14 TEV

THREE PROMISES FROM GOD

What does God promise if you say, "Lord, I want you to use my life for your purposes?"

- God promises _____.

"No one will be able to stand up against you." Joshua 1:5 NIV

- God promises _____.

"Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful." Joshua 1:7-8 NIV

- God promises _____.

"[I] will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9 NIV

"Always remember what is written in [this book]. Study it day and night to be sure to obey everything that is written there. If you do this, you will be wise and successful in everything." Joshua 1:8 NCV

God's promise of success is not based on your ability. It is based on your commitment to his Word.

3. Lean on _____.

"No one will be able to defeat you all your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forget you." Joshua 1:5 NCV

Whom or what are you leaning on for strength?

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV

4. Launch out in _____.

Then Joshua issued instructions to the leaders . . . to tell the people to get ready to cross the Jordan River. Joshua 1:10 TLB

What is your Jordan River? What is the barrier in your life that you think you will never get over? What is standing between you and God's dream? Courage is not the absence of fear. Courage is moving ahead despite your fear.

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 working within us. Ephesians 3:20 MSG

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- Is your dream big enough for God? Are you pursuing your dream or God's dream for your life?
- Does the idea of God having a dream for your life excite you or frighten you? Explain your answer.
- "Believe your beliefs and doubt your doubts. Doubt is the enemy of God's dream for your life." What doubts do you need to dump so God can use you?
- Courage is moving ahead despite your fear. God is waiting for you to take a step of faith so he can bless you with a miracle. What step of courageous faith do you need to take this week to pursue God's dream?

LIVING ON PURPOSE

- **Discipleship:** Joshua 1:8 tells us that if we remember the Word, study the Word, and obey the Word, we will be wise and successful. How will you prioritize and protect your daily time in the Word this week so that you can experience the richness of God's promise? Share practical suggestions with your group.
- **Worship:** Jesus said, "*Much is required from those to whom much is given, for their responsibility is greater*" (Luke 12:48 TLB). There is no limit to what God can do through a sacrificial heart expressed through an act of daring faith. As you are praying about your gift for the I'M IN offering, dare to ask God what He wants to give through you, and then step out in faith and do what He tells you to do. (Please keep your gift amount confidential.) This is the biggest challenge we have ever taken on at NewPointe. And it is the greatest opportunity we have ever had to not only touch our neighbors, but to exponentially expand the reach of our mission across the planet. You can get more information at <http://imin.newpointe.org>.

PRAYER DIRECTION

- Are you ready to stretch your imagination? 1 Samuel 3:9 says, "*Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.*" Ask God to show each of you the next step He wants you to take to fulfill His dream for your life.
- Pray for each other's prayer requests. Be sure to record them on the *Small Group Prayer and Praise Report* on page 78 of this study guide. Commit to pray for each other's requests every day this week.

DIVING DEEPER

- Read the I'M IN daily devotions for days 15 to 21 in this study guide. If it's more convenient, you can listen to the daily devotions at newpointe.org/imin. They're free!
- Read the Memory Verse on page 29 every day this week as part of your quiet time. See if you can memorize it before your next group meeting.

BEFORE YOU GO

- I'M IN Instagram Challenge: We dare you to share a dream you've had for your life. #npimin