



I'M IN

[RUN BY FAITH]

**SMALL GROUP GUIDE
WEEK 1**

SESSION 1

BUILDING A LIFE OF FAITH

@ CHECKING IN

1. If this is your group's first meeting, or if you have any new group members, be sure to introduce yourselves. Review the *Small Group Guidelines* on page 77 of this study guide.
2. Share with the group what you are hoping to get out of this IM IN: Run by Faith study.

@ MEMORY VERSE

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 1 Corinthians 9:24 NIV

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

SESSION 1

BUILDING A LIFE OF FAITH

According to your faith will it be done to you. Matthew 9:29 NIV

You get to choose how much God blesses your life and uses you in His plan for the world. Daring faith is the key to fulfilling God's will.

Where there is no faith, there are no miracles. Daring faith is the key to miracles in your life.

1. Faith is _____ when I don't see it.

Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.
Hebrews 11:1 HIV

2. Faith is _____ when I don't understand it.

It was by faith that Noah built an ark to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about something that had never happened before.
Hebrews 11:7 HLT

It was faith that made Abraham obey when God called him to go out to a country which God had promised to give him. He left his own country without knowing where he was going. Hebrews 11:8 TEV

3. Faith is _____ when I don't have it.

It was faith that made Abel offer to God a better sacrifice than Cain's. Through his faith he won God's approval . . . Hebrews 11:4 TEV

4. Faith is _____ when I don't feel like it.

It was by faith that [Moses] left Egypt without fear of the king's anger; he held to his purpose like someone who could see the invisible. Hebrews 11:27 HJB

5. Faith is _____ before I receive it.

By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days. Hebrews 11:30 HIV

If you wait until after a prayer has been answered to thank God, that's gratitude, but it's not faith. Faith is thanking God that the answer is already on its way, even before you see it.

6. Faith is _____ if I don't get it.

God is more interested in your character than your comfort. He is more interested in making you holy than making you happy. So sometimes He gives you the ability to handle trials instead of removing them from your life.

The world was not worthy of them . . . These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better.
Hebrews 11:38-40 NIV

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:17 NKJV

These trials are only to test your faith . . . So, if your faith remains strong after being tried in the test tube of fiery trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day of his return. 1 Peter 1:7 TLB

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

Please don't feel pressured to discuss every discovery question. It's okay to choose the questions that are right for your group. The point is not to race through the session; the point is to take time to let God work in your lives.

- On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being "nonexistent" and 10 being "absolutely unshakeable," how would you rate the strength of your faith today?
- Of the six facets of faith Dwight described, which one do you want to strengthen first, and why? What practical step can you take this week to move in that direction?
- Whom do you know who demonstrates strong faith? What lesson can you learn from their example?
- How have you seen God do something extraordinary, even miraculous, in your life or in the life of someone you know? How has that experience impacted the way you think about faith?

LIVING ON PURPOSE

This is where the rubber meets the road. We don't want to be just hearers of the Word. We also need to be doers of the Word (James 1:22). In his book, *The Purpose Driven Life*, Rick Warren identifies God's five purposes for our lives: worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, and evangelism. We will focus on one or two of these five purposes in each session. These assignments are application exercises that will help you put into practice the truths you have discussed in the lesson.

Worship: Faith is thanking God that the answer is already on its way, even before you see it. What do you need to begin thanking God for today?

Fellowship: Whom do you know who needs to have their faith built up? Why not invite them to join your group? It's not too late.

PRAYER DIRECTION

If there are more than eight people in your group, we recommend that you break into sub-groups of three or four people by gender. This will give everyone ample time to share and pray together. If praying in a group is new or uncomfortable for you, we encourage you to start by praying single sentence prayers. Don't worry about how fancy you sound. God isn't looking for eloquence. He just wants honesty. Talk to God like you talk to a friend. Give everyone a chance to pray, but don't insist on it. Over time, you will all feel much more comfortable praying together.

- 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 1 to 7 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 5 every day this week as part of your quiet time. See if you can memorize it before your next group meeting.
- At the end of this series, Dwight will ask all of us to participate in NewPointe's I'M IN offering. It will be the largest faith step we have ever taken together as a church. You can get more information about it by visiting <http://imin.newpointe.org>.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Turn to the *Small Group Calendar* on page 79 of this study guide. Healthy groups share responsibilities and group ownership. Fill out the calendar together, noting where you will meet each week, who will facilitate your meeting, and who will provide a meal or snack. Note special events, socials, or days off as well. Your Small Group Host will be very appreciative and everyone will have a lot more fun together. This would be a great role for someone to coordinate for the group.
- Collect basic contact information such as phone numbers and email addresses for your group members. The *Small Group Roster* on the inside front cover of your study guide is a good place to record this information.
- I'M IN Instagram Challenge: We dare you to share a picture of your small group.
#npimin