



**I'M ON**

**[ RUN BY FAITH ]**

**SMALL GROUP GUIDE  
WEEK 2**

## SESSION 2

# EXPECTING THE BEST

### @ CHECKING IN

1. In our last session, you rated the strength of your faith on a scale of 1 to 10. Did anything happen this week that increased your faith to a higher number?
2. Share a verse or insight that was especially meaningful to you in your I'M IN daily devotions this past week.

### @ MEMORY VERSE

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28 NIV*

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

## SESSION 2

# 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

1. When I expect the best, it \_\_\_\_\_ God.

*"This day the LORD will hand you over to me, 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*

2. When I expect the best, it \_\_\_\_\_ my ability.

3. When I expect the best, it \_\_\_\_\_ others.

### IF I WANT TO EXPECT THE BEST FROM GOD, I MUST . . .

- \_\_\_\_\_ every morning.

*In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.* Psalm 5:3 NIV

- \_\_\_\_\_ 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 MSG

*Let's keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. [God] always keeps his word.* Hebrews 10:23 MSG

- \_\_\_\_\_ 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.

*I'm a friend and companion . . . of those committed to living by your rules.*  
Psalm 119:63 MSG

*Let us not give up the habit of meeting together . . . Instead, let us encourage one another all the more.* Hebrews 10:25 TEV

*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

## DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- 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?
- 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?
- 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.
- What is the difference between biblical faith and positive thinking?

## LIVING ON PURPOSE

- Ministry: Whom do you know 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 an email of encouragement this week.
- 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 or email this week.

## PRAYER DIRECTION

- Faith is the confident assurance that God is in control, and that He plans what is best for your life because He loves you. Before you pray for your requests, spend a few minutes thanking God for His power: "God is in control." His wisdom: "He plans what is best for your life." And His love: "because He loves you."
- 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 8 to 14 in this study guide. If it's more convenient, you can listen to the daily devotions at [newpointe.org/imin](http://newpointe.org/imin). They're free!
- Read the Memory Verse on page 17 every day this week as part of your quiet time. See if you can memorize it before your next group meeting.

## **BEFORE YOU GO**

- Talk about how your group would like to handle urgent prayer requests that may come up between meetings. You can use email or group texts, or you can go to [newpointe.org/prayer](http://newpointe.org/prayer) and share your prayer requests or praise reports with us and allow us to come along side you to pray or celebrate!
- I'M IN Instagram Challenge: We dare you to share a picture of your quiet time spot. #npimin