LIFE OF FAITH

Teacher’s Manual

Contents

[THINGS TO KNOW 3](#_Toc466624237)

[Session 1 – FAITH'S LIFE-CHANGING WAYS I 6](#_Toc466624239)

[Session 2 – FAITH'S LIFE-CHANGING WAYS II 8](#_Toc466624240)

[Session 3 – WHAT IS FAITH? I 10](#_Toc466624241)

[Session 4 – WHAT IS FAITH? II 12](#_Toc466624242)

[Session 5 – GROW IN FAITH 14](#_Toc466624243)

[Session 6 – FAITH AND PROVISION 16](#_Toc466624244)

**Helpful Headings in this Teacher’s Manual**

### OBJECTIVES

### OVERVIEW

### INTRODUCTION

### BACKGROUND

### TEACHING TIP

### EXPLANATION

### APPLICATION

### assignment

###

### OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course, the participants should:

• understand what faith is and how to grow in faith

• be inspired to live by faith and influence others to do the same

• assess areas where their faith can be exercised and what they are believing God for

**OVERVIEW**

Session 1: **Faith's Life-Changing Ways I**

Session 2: **Faith's Life-Changing Ways II**

Session 3: **What is Faith? I**

Session 4: **What is Faith? II**

Session 5: **Grow in Faith**

Session 6: **Faith and Provision**

# THINGS TO KNOW

[Important notes for the teacher/s of this course]

This course has a total of six sessions of 60 minutes (maximum) per session. All the sessions have video courses with Bishop Juray Mora as the speaker. The first day will comprise of sessions 1 to 3, and the rest of the sessions (4 to 6) will be at the second day. The local center has the discretion to either show all the videos, or use the videos as teacher's resource. Each video is about twenty-five minutes long. If the center prefers a live teacher, ***the center needs to show the required videos for sessions 1 and 6***. Example:

***Day 1***

*Session 1 Show video*

*Session 2­­­ Live teacher*

*Session 3 Live teacher*

***Day 2***

*Session 4 Live teacher*

*Session 5­­­ Live teacher*

*Session 6 Show video*

# In this teacher's manual, students' notes are enclosed in boxes for easy reference. The blanks in the students' manual have been filled in this manual. However, spaces for notes in the students' manual have been removed from this teacher's manual. Also, notes enclosed in brackets in this manual are guidelines or recommendations for teachers.

The general structure to be followed for each session includes: teaching, application (through discussion questions), class processing, and activity (when applicable). Please note that the discussions and activities may be revised based on context and location. More time may be allotted for the activity. Most discussions and activities are done in small groups. Removing the application and activities to give way for a longer teaching session is not recommended. Class processing is done at the end of the application (discussion questions) to gauge individual learnings and possibly answer questions the participants might have. A ten-minute break should be given after every session.

The goal is to be engaging and dynamic by creating variety in content delivery during teaching.

Deviation from teaching notes comes with preparation and mastery. All teachers are encouraged to vary the methods of teaching, but not at the expense of omitting content by adding extra-biblical material. Allow for participants to interact with the material and with the other participants, thus giving way to discussion, activities, and application.

As a teacher, focus your preparation time on communicating the key points of each session and giving examples or illustrations that will inspire and encourage the participants. Not all the provided illustrations from the teacher's notes have to be used, and others may be substituted for more relevant or personal illustrations.

It is highly recommended that Scripture narratives used in explaining points be delivered by storytelling, whereas short verses may simply be read verbatim to support the validity of key thoughts. Please note that the students' manual uses the ESV Bible translation.

Also, a list of logistical needs is provided for some sessions so the teacher and administrative staff or volunteer can adequately prepare all videos, supplies, and materials ahead of time.

Lastly, a simple evaluation form is provided at the end of this course. Please allow for participants to fill this out and submit by the end of the final session. This will help provide feedback for improvement and future implementation of the course.

### SUGGESTED TIME ALLOTMENT PER TOPIC

*[Please allow for flexibility in the time allotment.]*

|  |
| --- |
| **DAY 1** |
| SESSION 1 | DURATION | TOPIC |
| **Faith's Life-Changing Ways I** | 5 minutes | Welcome and Introduction |
| 25 minutes | Video  |
| 10 minutes | Application |
| 5 minutes | Class Processing |
| 10 minutes | Break |
| SESSION 2 |  |  |
| **Faith's Life-Changing Ways II** | 25 minutes | Video or Lecture by a Live Teacher |
| 10 minutes | Application |
| 5 minutes | Class Processing |
|  | 10 minutes | Break |
| SESSION 3 |  |  |
| **What is Faith? I** | 25 minutes | Video or Lecture by a Live Teacher |
| 10 minutes | Application |
| 5 minutes | Class Processing |
|  | End of Day 1 |
| **DAY 2** |
| SESSION 4 |  |  |
| **What is Faith? II** | 5 minutes | Welcome and Introduction |
| 25 minutes | Video or Lecture by a Live Teacher |
| 10 minutes | Application |
| 5 minutes | Class Processing |
|  | 10 minutes | Break |
| SESSION 5 |  |  |
| **Grow in Faith** | 25 minutes | Video or Lecture by a Live Teacher |
| 10 minutes  | Application |
| 5 minutes | Class Processing |
| 10 minutes | Break |
| SESSION 6 |  |  |
| **Faith and Provision** | 25 minutes | Video  |
| 10 minutes  | Application |
| 5 minutes | Class Processing |
| 5 minutes | End of Life of Faith |

# Session 1 – FAITH'S LIFE-CHANGING WAYS I

### LOGISTICAL NEEDS

* video course by Bishop Juray Mora

### BACKGROUND of the speaker

Juray Mora is the bishop of Victory Ministers Association in Metro Manila. He has been in full-time ministry for over twenty-seven years. He served as senior pastor in Victory Iloilo for twelve years and in Victory Bacolod for three years.

As national director of the Victory Ministers Association, Juray oversees church health and provides pastoral oversight for over 773 vocational ministers nationwide.

Juray graduated with a degree in Political Science from De La Salle University.

As a bishop and pastor, Juray also serves on the apostolic team of Victory in the Philippines.

Juray is married to Deah and they are blessed with six children: TJ, Iya, Sophia, Juliana, Celina, and Raymund.

### WELCOME AND introduction (5 MINUTES)

[Welcome the participants to this course. Begin with a time of prayer and invite the Holy Spirit to be with you. Then briefly introduce the course objectives and an overview of each session. The teacher should briefly introduce the teacher/s or speaker/s for this course. Encourage the participants to bring their Bibles during each session.]

“Why” is usually one of the words that a child will learn to say first. This is because God has created man with a desire to know the reason or cause behind everything he does. This course will attempt to answer these important questions: Why do we need faith? How do we grow in our faith in God? How do we use our faith in receiving God’s provision?

Everything of value in the kingdom of God comes at a great cost. Part of that cost is the opposition from the enemy who will do everything possible to stop us from increasing our faith.

Faith is of great value; therefore, we should expect that it will come at a great cost and will require a great fight. In order to remain victorious in the life of faith, we must be aware of the benefits and value of faith. We must know why we need faith if we are to pursue it diligently.

[Share your own or somebody’s faith story.]

[The faith story of Bishop Juray Mora]

Faith in God has been a continuing discovery for us. In a sense learning and experiencing the life of Faith has been a journey. We all start our walk with God with a measure of faith. As we continue walking with Him we get to discover more and more that faith in Him is really the solution to everything we face.

We moved to Iloilo last week of February 1991, about two weeks after we got married. We stepped in as pastors of a church that was a little over a year old. It was a church of about 50 people and mostly students a few singles waiting for job opportunities and one grandmother. From the very beginning we were financially challenged. After about a year the challenge became even more intense. Through time we had tried different ways to help my family overcome the financial difficulties.

We tried selling different things from fish, to cakes, to clothes. Finally, we got into a business with the help of a close friend. We did really well and this helped us tremendously for about three years after which it just died. Then we were back to the same financial challenge as before. But through all this we had significant encounters with God and realized more and more how great a Father He is.

So this time we were no longer facing the future in fear even if there was no immediate solution. We knew that God was indeed in charge and that He is an amazingly good provider. We also began to see the Word of God not just as an inspiration and something we teach about but more and more we saw the scripture show us what reality is suppose to be like.

We also began to understand that the Word of God is powerful and can actually change our daily circumstance.

We began to see that Scripture is not just about a reality we wait for but it is a reality we can participate in as we believe to see it manifest before us. In the next few months and years after our business died we saw God bring a financial breakthrough beyond what we could believe for through our business.

We saw God provide, fulfill and confirm His Word time and time again. We saw God provide miraculously and regularly for the different needs we faced. We saw God provide cars, bikes, gadgets, trips, etc. We saw God turn us into a blessing, allowed us to see that despite our financial situation, we could be financial channels for others as well.

In all these times we don't have the most expensive things, our dream house (yet), tens of millions in the bank, etc. But what this allowed us to do—to fulfill the call of God for us without the fear of the future for our family.

This has opened us to God using us as channels of His blessing whether we have nothing, little or a lot. The life of faith is a journey full of adventure. Faith in God changed our lives, our circumstance, and our disposition.

*4For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. 5Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*

1 John 5: 4-5 (NIV)

We are destined to overcome, and not be overwhelmed.

We are destined to thrive, and not just survive.

Faith does not only inspire and give us to ability to endure, but faith conquers, overcomes, and takes over undesirable situations.

Now let us look into it:

### LECTURE (25 MINUTES)

|  |
| --- |
| *1Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2For by it the people of old received their commendation. 3By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.*HEBREWS 11:1-3 |

### EXPLANATION

What does ‘by faith’ mean?

The word ‘by’ means,

* in the power of
* through the authority of
* as a result of
* on the basis of

So in a sense it is saying in the power of faith, or in the authority of faith, these people conquered the challenges in their lives and these things happened.

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Faith can change (1) the circumstances around us.*. . . 21for she said to herself, “If I only touch his garment, I will be made well.” 22Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And instantly the woman was made well.*MATTHEW 9:21,22 |

### EXPLANATION

The woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years was instantly healed as soon as she touched the fringe of the robe of Jesus.

Her faith led her to Jesus and led her to take action. Her faith led her to her healing.

Faith will involve a time of waiting but faith will always be moving forward towards God. Waiting on God is not about sitting and doing nothing. As we wait on God we move forward with Him because we have tied ourselves to Him.

|  |
| --- |
| 2. The impossible is conquered (2) by faith.*28When he entered the house, the blind men came to him, and Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to him, “Yes, Lord.” 29Then he touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith be it done to you.” 30And their eyes were opened. . . .*MATTHEW 9:28-30 |

### EXPLANATION

We don't have to get stuck with our circumstance. We are not at the mercy of the world or the people above us or even at the mercy of our unfortunate history. Faith can and will change things. Faith brings the unseen into our world. Faith takes us past the limitations of our world.

My circumstance and calling is not a penalty from God, and with faith, I don't have to be limited by my situation.

The world as we see it and know it was created by the power of faith, power of God. It was created from nothing into this amazing reality (Hebrews 11:3).

|  |
| --- |
| 3. A relationship with God is impossible (3) apart from faith.*And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*HEBREWS 11:6 |

### EXPLANATION

Hebrews 11:4-6 (NIV84)

*4By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead. 5By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. 6And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

Faith connects us with God: A relationship with God is impossible apart from faith.

|  |
| --- |
|  Obedience is important, but it must flow from a heart (4) of faith. |

### EXPLANATION

Abel's faith was expressed through his offering to God.

Enoch's faith caused him to walk with God.

|  |
| --- |
| 4. With faith, we can bring great pleasure (5) to God.*And without faith it is impossible to please God . . .*HEBREWS 11:6 (NIV) |

### EXPLANATION

Faith enables us to please God.

Teaching our very young children to give to God was a great joy. Their offerings were very small but I believe God was greatly pleased because of their faith.

Luke 18:16,17

*16But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 17I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."*

Faith is very natural to children. For many this is our simple desire "to please God" yet our works, our sacrifice and our gifts cannot and will not please God without faith.

(Bishop Juray's testimonies)

* TJ giving P80 (coins) to the church as his seed money was a pleasure because it was done in faith, as he believed God for his desktop PC.
* TJ’s faith (when he was about 8 or 9 years old)– believing that God will provide not just for our boat tickets but for plane tickets from Iloilo to Manila.

|  |
| --- |
| application (10 minutes)[The teacher may choose just one question and ask the participants to answer it by discussing within their groups. Class processing will be done after their discussion.]1. What circumstances in your life are you believing God to change?
2. How can you express your faith in a way that pleases God?
 |

### CLASS PROCESSING (5 MINUTES)

### [At this point, the teacher will ask two to three participants to share what they have discussed in the group discussion during the application.]

### BREAK (10 MINUTES)

# Session 2 – FAITH'S LIFE-CHANGING WAYS II

### LOGISTICAL NEEDS

* video course by Bishop Juray Mora

### LECTURE (25 MINUTES)

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Faith enables us to pursue (1) what is most valuable.*By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.*HEBREWS 11:7*8By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. 10For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.*HEBREWS 11:8-10 |

### EXPLANATION

Faith enables us to pursue what is most valuable. For Noah, it was to build to ark to save his family from the coming worldwide flood. For Abraham, it enabled him to obey the Lord when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance.

|  |
| --- |
| • Faith can keep (2) us going. |

### EXPLANATION

Noah and Abraham did not understand everything about the future but their faith in God enabled them to move forward despite the uncertainty and they inherited what was of greatest value.

|  |
| --- |
| • Faith enables us to follow (3) God to the end no matter what our circumstance is. |

### EXPLANATION

As much as we try to make the best decisions employing every possible way to see the future with greater clarity we will always be limited. Only God sees the beginning to the end, and that is why faith is essential.

Noah could only hang on to the Word of God even as his world could not understand what he was doing.

Abraham left a very good, profitable, and prosperous situation to follow God.

Good or bad circumstances, the best way to face the future is in faith.

|  |
| --- |
| • We can pursue the purpose (4) of God no matter the cost. |

### EXPLANATION

I have been enabled to pursue the purpose of God without fear for my family's future.

Many times the great need takes us away from what is most valuable to us: "time and money."

We can pursue the purpose of God no matter the cost.

|  |
| --- |
| 2. Faith receives (5) the promise of God.*11By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. 12Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.*HEBREWS 11:11,12 |

### EXPLANATION

Faith puts us in the position to receive.

Faith keeps us in that position till we receive.

Hebrews 6:12

*We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.*

Faith enabled them to wait 'til the day of fulfillment.

Challenges, trials, tests even persecution, will help us conquer and keep moving towards Gods purpose.

|  |
| --- |
| • Faith enabled Abraham to consider (6) the possibility. |

### EXPLANATION

Many times we don't even consider possibilities because our experience, our knowledge, and our expertise tell us it is not possible.

|  |
| --- |
| • Faith overcomes (7) the impossible. |

### EXPLANATION

Hebrews 11:13-16 (NIV)

*13All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. 14People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. 15If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. 16Instead, they were longing for a better country-a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.*

Many times we find ourselves refusing the call of God because of the fear that we will not be able to bless our family or have a good future. Many times the pressure of our circumstance does not even allow us to consider that God can bless us above and beyond what we can ask or imagine, where He has called us.

|  |
| --- |
|  3. Faith empowers us to obey (8), even when things don’t work as we understand it.*17By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, 18of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” 19He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.*HEBREWS 11:17-19 |

### EXPLANATION

Faith empowers us to obey God, even when things don't work out as we understand or expect it to happen.

Many times the world will tell us to live a way contrary to the word of God. And then sometimes the word will lead us in a way that does not make sense to the world.

Faith will lead us to the right path.

Giving is our way out . . . Does not make sense, but it is God's way. Will we trust Him?

If Abraham offered Ishmael to God the world would have been impressed by his devotion to God, but he and God would have known that someone or something was between them.

|  |
| --- |
| If we obey God, we will see the provision (9) of God. |

|  |
| --- |
| 4. Obedience completes (10) faith.*22You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; 23and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God.*JAMES 2:22,23 |

### EXPLANATION

Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac as a sacrifice on Mount Moriah. His faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete.

The day Isaac was born Abraham discovered God is a promise keeper. The day Abraham obeyed God about Isaac he discovered God is the ultimate provider without limits. He discovered that nothing can stop God from fulfilling His promises to us. Our obedience to God completes [reaches its maturity] our faith.

Hebrews 11:20-22

*20By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future. 21By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons, and worshipped as he leaned on the top of his staff.*

*22By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions about his bones.*

Faith enables us to believe and see that God is in charge no matter what. Even our mistakes, wrong decisions and rebellion cannot change the plans of God. Joseph had to acknowledge that God was in charge and God worked out things according to plan.

Genesis 45:4-7

*4So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. 5And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. 7And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.*

|  |
| --- |
| 5. Faith will displace fear (11).*By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king’s edict.*HEBREWS 11:23 |

### EXPLANATION

Faith will displace fear. There is no reason for fear to dominate and rule us when we can trust somebody more powerful than any harm that can befall us.

|  |
| --- |
|  6. Faith empowers you to live (12) the godly life despite the impossible challenges.*24By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, 25choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. 26He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. 27By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. 28By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.*HEBREWS 11:24-28 |

### EXPLANATION

Faith transforms values into convictions.

Moses could have just stayed under Pharaoh’s family but something more valuable became his unwavering conviction.

Through faith we can gain the strength beyond the natural into the realm of the divine. Moses went from his natural limitations so he can fulfill the will of God for him and the people of Israel.

Faith empowers us to live the godly life despite the impossible challenges.

|  |
| --- |
|  7. Faith sets us apart (13) from the world.*29By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. 30By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days.*HEBREWS 11:29,30 |

### EXPLANATION

Faith in God sets us apart from the world. The miracles the nation of Israel saw was not difference between them and Egypt. It was their faith in God that set them apart.

Faith will keep you going to the end.

The place or the time of faith is between the promise and its fulfillment. Because God fulfills all His promises, faith will see us to the end.

|  |
| --- |
|  8. Faith cannot stop the attacks of the devil, but faith can make sure we are not destroyed (14) by them.*31By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies. 32And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—33who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.*HEBREWS 11:31-34 |

### EXPLANATION

Because Rahab welcomed the spies sent by Joshua, she was not killed with those who were disobedient in the Canaanite city of Jericho.

Faith cannot stop the attacks of the enemy, "the devil". Yet faith can make sure his attacks do not destroy us.

Ephesians 6:16 says, *“In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish ALL the flaming arrows of the evil one."*

Hebrews 11:35-40

*35Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. 36Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. 37They were stoned; they were sawn in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and ill-treated- 38the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. 39These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. 40God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.*

It will take faith to fight towards total victory.

It will take faith to conquer in this world.

It will take faith to live for the next generations that they will reap the fruits even of our faith and work.

|  |
| --- |
| 9. The faith we live can be the foundation (15) for the future generations. |

Faith is a powerful legacy and inheritance we can leave to our children and their children.

|  |
| --- |
| application (10 minutes)[The teacher may choose just one question and ask the participants to answer it by discussing within their groups. Class processing will be done after their discussion.]1. Is there something you have given up on? Why?
2. What are you believing God for, but have not acted upon?What are you planning to do about it? When are youplanning to act on it?
3. Have you ever experienced a storm in your life as a result of disobedience? What did you do to get out of it?
 |

### CLASS PROCESSING (5 MINUTES)

### [At this point, the teacher will ask two to three participants to share what they have discussed in the group discussion during the application.]

### BREAK (10 MINUTES)

# Session 3 – WHAT IS FAITH? I

### LOGISTICAL NEEDS

* video course by Bishop Juray Mora

### INTRODUCTION

Before we look at what faith is, let us look at this scripture first, so that we get pointed to the right direction and the right person.

Acts 3:16

*By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.*

Everybody was astonished that a crippled man who was like a permanent fixture at the temple was healed. This was somebody who had been begging at the entrance to the temple for years. But today he was healed. It created some sort of commotion and everybody was asking what happened?

So this is Peter’s explanation . . . This man was healed by faith in Jesus' name. This man was healed by God.

### LECTURE (25 MINUTES)

|  |
| --- |
| *. . . looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*HEBREWS 12:2 |

### EXPLANATION

The starting point of faith is God Himself. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus on whom our faith depends from start to finish. He is the author and finisher of our faith. So let us look at our God because our knowledge of God will be the foundation of our faith in Him.

|  |
| --- |
| **Knowledge of God***7They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of**your righteousness. 8The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. 9The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.*PSALM 145:7-9 |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. God is gracious (1). |

### EXPLANATION

God is gracious (Hebrew, *ḥannûn*) is one of the first terms in the classic description of Yahweh in Exodus 34:6–7, which brings with it His other qualities–He is compassionate, long-tempered, and big in commitment. [[1]](#footnote-1)

|  |
| --- |
| • God is disposed to show favor (2). |

### EXPLANATION

This is His nature; He does not get forced to give favor.

He likes giving favor or doing favors for His children.

|  |
| --- |
| • You don’t have to earn (3) God’s favor. |

### EXPLANATION

He loves to give His favor to His children (Psalm 5:12).

See if you earned it, it’s not a favor; it's not a blessing. It's called salary.

There are a lot better and more qualified people than my children yet I would gladly bless my children before anybody else. Why? Because my favor is upon them always.

You can either believe this and see it, or work out your own favors and face the consequences of it.

Psalm 30:5

*For his anger lasts only a moment, but HIS FAVOR LASTS A LIFETIME; weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.*

|  |
| --- |
| 2. God is compassionate (4). |

### EXPLANATION

To be compassionate meansto have so much mercy and tenderness for someone else that it actually causes pain, and leads one to a deep desire to show love and goodness.

Psalm 78:38a

*Yet he was merciful; he forgave their iniquities and did not destroy them.*

|  |
| --- |
| • When God restores (5), it is better than the original. |

### EXPLANATION

 [Illustration: Mention things that have been restored like old cars, houses, etc.]

If you make a mistake and repent, God forgives. He restores people to the right path.

David, Moses, Abraham, and Peter were restored.

1 Peter 4:8 says that love covers over a multitude of sins.

Lamentations 3:21-23 (ESV)

*21But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: 22The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; 23they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

|  |
| --- |
| • His compassion never (6) fails; His mercies are new every morning. |

### EXPLANATION

God does not run out of compassion and love.

He is slow to anger. He’s cool.

He has no good mood or bad mood.

|  |
| --- |
| • God is good to all (7). |

### EXPLANATION

To the sinner, to the Christians, even to those who made a terrible mistake and a terrible sin.

God is not confused today He is good, next He is bad. That is why everyone gets many chances. That is why there is such a thing as common grace.

|  |
| --- |
| 3. God is faithful (8).*89Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. 90Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.*PSALM 119:89,90 |

### EXPLANATION

The Psalmist believed that the settled Word of God was a demonstration of the faithfulness of God; and that faithfulness extends across all generations. [[2]](#footnote-2)

|  |
| --- |
| There has never been and never will be a generation (9) that God has failed. |

### EXPLANATION

2 Timothy 2:13

*If we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.*

Psalm 91: 4

*He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.*

God has a record of faithfulness, while man has a record of unfaithfulness. God confronted our unfaithfulness with His faithfulness. We serve a GOOD GOD. Hope is very real with a good God. Faith makes sense with an amazingly good God.

|  |
| --- |
| application (10 minutes)[The teacher may choose just one question and ask the participants to answer it by discussing within their groups. Class processing will be done after their discussion.]1. Share your own testimony of God’s graciousness, compassion, and faithfulness in your life. What did you learn from that experience?
2. Which of the three characteristics of God discussed in this session stood out to you, and need to be applied in your life? Why?

  |

### CLASS PROCESSING (5 MINUTES)

### [At this point, the teacher will ask two to three participants to share what they have discussed in the group discussion during the application.]

### BREAK (10 MINUTES)

# Session 4 – WHAT IS FAITH? II

### LOGISTICAL NEEDS

* video course by Bishop Juray Mora

### WELCOME AND introduction (5 MINUTES)

[Welcome the participants to this course. Begin with a time of prayer and invite the Holy Spirit to be with you. Then briefly introduce the course objectives and an overview of each session. The teacher should briefly introduce the teacher/s or speaker/s for this course. Encourage the participants to bring their Bibles during each session.]

### LECTURE (25 MINUTES)

|  |
| --- |
| *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*HEBREWS 11:1 (ESV)*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*HEBREWS 11:1 (KJV) |

### EXPLANATION

Other translations render this verse as:

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.* (KJV)

*Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.* (NIV84)

What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see. (NLT)

|  |
| --- |
| **Hope**1. Hope is a strong expectation (1) that something good is about to happen. |

### EXPLANATION

We have to realize that faith in a sense exists for hope.

Faith cannot exist without hope.

|  |
| --- |
| 2. Hope is the target (2) of faith. |

### EXPLANATION

What are you hoping for? What is your goal, desire, aim, or prayer request?

|  |
| --- |
| 3. Hope is stronger than a wish (3).*In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.”*ROMANS 4:18 |

### EXPLANATION

Hope is stronger than a desire. Hope and faith together can be very powerful.

|  |
| --- |
| 4. Hope keeps us going (4).*We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain . . .*HEBREWS 6:19 |

### EXPLANATION

Hope is compared to an anchor, a heavy object attached to a cable or chain and used to moor a ship to the sea bottom, typically having a metal shank with a pair of curved, barbed flukes at one end. Just as anchor keeps a ship aground or stable, hope keeps us stable, focused, and single minded.

|  |
| --- |
| 5. Hope inspires (5) us to action.*And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.*1 JOHN 3:3 |

### EXPLANATION

Knowing our eternal destiny with God, and living in this hope will purify our lives. When we know that our end is to be more like Jesus, it makes us want to be more like Jesus right now.

Hope inspires us to live a certain way. It inspires us to action. It really amazes me to see seemingly lazy friends become one of the most motivated workers in another country. How can this be? If they can just have hope or something to expect that will happen in the near future, they can be driven and inspired to work.

My problem for many years was the fact that I no longer had hope for many areas in my life. I had been in a very difficult place for many years that I no longer had dreams.

I was resigned to serve God with out a significant breakthrough for the rest of our lives. I already prayed saying, "Lord I will serve you for the rest of my life even if I had no money." I realized years later God never asked me for this commitment.

Where does hope come from? Where do we get hope?

People get hope from many places. They can get hope from good circumstances, favor, luck, money, friends, skills, ability, etc. The problem with these places for hope is that it can change in a wink of an eye.

Life could end up like a roller coaster ride.

[Surprising stories:]

During a universal financial crisis, the 3rd richest man of a first world nation killed himself. He could not find one more reason to extend his life. His money and his success, his world could not give him one.

So where do we get hope? 1 John 3:3 says that, *“And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.”*

This verse tells us that we should have our hope in God. We readily agree. But why is it still difficult to have consistent and unwavering hope?

For many including myself, we could always find good reasons why God will bless others but we have difficulty finding reasons why God would do it for us. In fact, we probably have more reasons why we have disqualified ourselves from God’s blessings. We are hoping and wishing He would bless us but we don't have the confidence He would do it.

I realized that my hope and faith was affected by my knowledge of God. When we look back, the path towards our breakthrough really took a major turn when God began to change our image of Him.

|  |
| --- |
| 6. The walk of faith (6) is the only way to go. |

### EXPLANATION

Since faith is trusting God, I also realized that we cannot trust someone we do not know. We really had to start getting to know our God more and more. So as God began to show us more and more of Himself, hope became a natural by product.

|  |
| --- |
| **Substance and Evidence**1. Substance means raw materials (7) |

### EXPLANATION

Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV)

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

The word "substance" (or "assurance") is the translation of the Greek word *hupostasis* that literally means, “a standing under or support” (*hupo*, “under,” + *histemi*, “to stand”).

The vocabulary of the Greek Testament (Moulton & Milligan) reports its use as a legal term. They say that it stands for “the whole body of documents bearing on the ownership of a person’s property, deposited in archives, and forming the evidence of ownership.” They suggest the translation, “Faith is the title-deed of things hoped for.” The Holy Spirit energized act of faith which a believer exercises in the Lord Jesus is the title-deed which God puts in his hand, guaranteeing to him the possession of the thing for which he trusted Him.

In other words, assurance is “that which underlies what is apparent.” Amplified a bit further, it is that which, though perhaps unseen, exists beneath and supports what is visible. It then has the sense of a foundation. Even as the foundation of a building is unseen, and the building above ground is visible, the foundation–the *hupostasis*–is nonetheless real, supporting the building. *Hupostasis* can be seen as the unseen support of that which is standing in clear view. [[3]](#footnote-3)

God is so good that the promises in His Word become the raw materials for things we hope for.

|  |
| --- |
| 2. Evidence means proof (8) or title deed.*By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised.*HEBREWS 11:11 |

### EXPLANATION

Abraham’s raw materials and title deed for his son was the promise, the Word of God. The natural raw materials did not work and at his age will no longer work.

It was an impossible situation, but he had the raw materials and title deed to it. He hanged on to the Word of God.

Growing up, my dad would make promises to us. The moment he did that, I had this feeling that it was on the way. Many times my dad would give conditions to the promise. It involved work, yet it was a joy because I new the promise became possible. All I had was his word yet I knew that my dad is totally for me and never against me. That word was raw material and evidence enough for my desire.

|  |
| --- |
| 3. Unseen is another word for “on the” way (9). |

### EXPLANATION

God challenged His people to believe in the things He declared but was unseen till its fulfillment.

The world says to see is to believe. Faith on the other hand says, “I believe therefore I will see.”

God did this time and time again. He changed the names of people so they can visualize what will happen in their future.

* from Abram (high or exalted father) to Abraham (a father of a multitude of nations)
* from Simon (literally means "listening", "reed-like" or "grass-like", hinting perhaps at his human weakness and how easily he was swayed by ‘wind of the world’) to Peter (a rock or a stone)

God used images like, “as numerous as the starts at the sky” (Genesis 15:5) and “the sand on the seashore.” (Genesis 22:17)

All the promises of God are challenges for us to believe through.

When God promised a son to Abraham, even against all hope he had the raw materials and the title deed. Abraham had a solid faith in God.

When God promised a Savior to come, it took many generations and trials.

When God promised land to Israel, some asked, how could this happen when there are giants in the land.

With the promised salvation we have received, right now, all we have is the raw materials and the title deed of God’s Word.

|  |
| --- |
| 4. The time of faith is now (10), but the target of faith is still the unseen.“Faith is the raw material that an amazingly good God promised and the title deed to things that are on the way.”—Bishop Juray Mora |

### EXPLANATION

I remember a story of a pastor outside of Bacolod. He had been asking and praying to God for a car. After praying for a sometime, he felt like the Lord challenged him, that if he really believed that God was going to give him a car, then he had to build a garage for it. So he did, even though some of his friends laughed at him. But in a matter of weeks, someone just gave him a car.

|  |
| --- |
| application (10 minutes)[The teacher may choose just one question and ask the participants to answer it by discussing within their groups. Class processing will be done after their discussion.]1. Have you ever experienced being hopeless? How did you recover from it?2. How would you minister to someone who is experiencing hopelessness?  |

### CLASS PROCESSING (5 MINUTES)

### [At this point, the teacher will ask two to three participants to share what they have discussed in the group discussion during the application.]

### BREAK (10 MINUTES)

# Session 5 – GROW IN FAITH

### LOGISTICAL NEEDS

* video course by Bishop Juray Mora

### LECTURE (25 MINUTES)

|  |
| --- |
| **Faith that Affects Others**1. Faith does not only affect us; it affects others (1).*57And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household.” 58And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.*MATTHEW 13:57,58 |

### EXPLANATION

This is one of the saddest events in Jesus life. This was Jesus’ hometown. These were people he knew, his relatives and his friends. These were people he really cared about. Yet Jesus could not bring to full manifestation the reality of His heart for them.

Why? Did Jesus change His mind about them? Did Jesus become less powerful around them?

Why? He did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

The "lack of faith" (*apistia*, used only here in Matthew) of the people was undoubtedly a source of profound grief and frustration for Jesus (cf. apistos, "unbelieving," in 17:17), rather than something that stripped him of power. [[4]](#footnote-4)

I realized that faith has to grow, faith has to increase. Our faith does not only affect us; it affects others as well.

On the positive side, faith can be a blessing to others.

Luke 5:19-20

*19"When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. 20When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."*

Their faith blessed a helpless friend.

The text shows the importance of faith. It is the faith of those who bring the paralytic to Jesus that is highlighted. This detail seems to indicate that God honors us as we seek to lead others to the Lord. [[5]](#footnote-5)

|  |
| --- |
| 2. Faith has to grow (2).*3"Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, 4and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him.” 5The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!”*LUKE 17:3-5 |

### EXPLANATION

Our level of faith has to increase.

Take note of the disciples’ reaction to a demand for the impossible.

This duty of forgiving offences seemed so difficult to the disciples that they strongly felt the need of an increase of faith. They felt that they were prone themselves to harbor resentments, and that it required an additional increase of true religion to enable them to comply with the requirements of Jesus. From this story we may learn that Jesus has “the power” of increasing the faith of His people. [[6]](#footnote-6)

Many times we give up when faced with the impossible, yet faith can take us passed the impossible. Faith has to grow; faith has to increase.

|  |
| --- |
| **Growing our Faith**1. Faith grows or gets activated by the Word (3).*So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*ROMANS 10:17• The Word of God in our hearts makes the difference (4). |

### EXPLANATION

There is no great secret to great faith. It all starts with the Word of God.

Example: Smith Wigglesworth (1859-1947) – a plumber who became a mighty evangelist and miracle worker

Over Smith's ministry it was confirmed that 14 people were raised from the dead. Thousands were saved and healed and he impacted whole continents for Christ. His ministry was based on four principles " First, read the Word of God. Second, consume the Word of God until it consumes you. Third believe the Word of God. Fourth, act on the Word."

For more information, see <http://healingandrevival.com/BioSWigglesworth.htm>

|  |
| --- |
| • What we read and meditate on will influence (5) us.*“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”*JOSHUA 1:8 |

### EXPLANATION

Let us meditate daily on the Word.

Meditation means “the act of focusing one’s thoughts: to ponder, think on, muse.” Meditation consists of reflective thinking or contemplation, usually on a specific subject to discern its meaning or significance or a plan of action. [[7]](#footnote-7)

Let the Word fill our hearts and minds. Let the Word of God tell us and show us what should be our reality. Let’s meditate on the Word rather than on our problem.

To meditate means to think about it again and again, so that you get everything you can possibly get from it.

|  |
| --- |
| • The Word will encourage (6) you. |

### EXPLANATION

The Word of God will encourage you, build you up and make you wise.

So many of God’s people miss out because they do not know the Word of God.

Psalm 119:9-11

*9How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. 10I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. 11I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against*

The Word of God must be in our hearts and mind, not just in our shelves and gadgets.

Psalm 119:28

*My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word.*

The Psalmist takes God at His Word. Strengthen me as you said in your Word.

|  |
| --- |
| • The Word of God is the promise (7) of God. *49Remember your word to your servant, in which you have made me hope. 50This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life.*PSALM 119:49,50 |

### EXPLANATION

The psalmist brings his situation to God and brings God’s promise before the Lord.

|  |
| --- |
| • The Word of God is the will (8) of God.*You have dealt well with your servant, O Lord, according to your word.*PSALM 119:65• The Word of God is eternal (9).*Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.*PSALM 119:89 |

### EXPLANATION

The Word of God is fixed. It is the truth. It is eternal.

It is standing firm and unchangeable (Amplified Bible).

|  |
| --- |
| • The Word of God is the plan (10) of God.*10“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”*ISAIAH 55:10,11 |

### EXPLANATION

The Word of God will change you, it will change others and it will change your world. Nothing and no one can stop the Word of God.

The Word of God is the will of God, the plan of God and the promise of God.

What does the Word of God say about your current situation?

|  |
| --- |
| 2. Faith is built up through praying (11) in the spirit.*But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit . . .*JUDE 20*The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church.*1 CORINTHIANS 14:4 |

### EXPLANATION

We build up our faith when we pray in tongues.

God never changes, but we do. Sometimes we feel like we can conquer the world, sometimes we feel like we a re useless. We need to continuously build up our faith.

Ephesians 6:18

*. . . praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints . . .*

Praying in tongues is part of the armor and weapon that God gave us.

|  |
| --- |
| 3. Faith is released through our mouth (12).*22And Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God. 23Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. 24Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”*MARK 11:22-24 |

### EXPLANATION

In verse 22 Jesus said, “Have faith in God,” or as the margin reads, “Have the faith of God.” Greek scholars tell us this should be translated, “Have the God kind of faith.” Jesus demonstrated that He had the God kind of faith. While Jesus was far off, He saw that the fig tree had leaves. But as He approached it, looking for fruit, He saw that it was barren. Some have questioned why Jesus looked for figs on this tree when it was not time for them to be ripe; it was not their season. However, in that country trees that retained their leaves usually had figs also. Finding no fruit on the tree, Jesus said, “No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever.”

*The next day when Jesus and His disciples passed by again they found the tree dried up from the roots. Amazed, Peter said, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!"* (Mark 11:21)

It was then that Jesus made the statement, “Have faith in God”, or have the God kind of faith that moves mountains.

After telling His disciples in verse 22 to have the God kind of faith, Jesus went on to explain in verse 23 what this meant: The God kind of faith is the kind of faith in which a man believes with his heart and says with his mouth that which he believes in his heart, and it comes to pass.

Proverbs 18:21

*Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.*

Are we declaring and prophesying life or cursing our lives to death?

Proverbs 12:14

*From the fruit of his mouth a man is satisfied with good, and the work of a man's hand comes back to him.*

Proverbs 13:2-3

*2From the fruit of his mouth a man eats what is good, but the desire of the treacherous is for violence. 3Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life; he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.*

Let us guard our mouth. Some may need to adjust what we say, or how we say it. Be careful what you say in anger and frustration.

I told my wife, don't tell me you don't have the money; just tell me you need more money. The solution is the same. We do not use the word ‘expensive’ with our children.

Are we declaring and prophesying the Word of God over our lives or are we cursing our lives?

|  |
| --- |
| application (10 minutes)[The teacher may choose just one question and ask the participants to answer it by discussing within their groups. Class processing will be done after their discussion.]1. Is there a Scripture that you have difficulty applying in your life? Why? What specific steps will you take to have your faith grow, so that you can apply this scripture in your life? 2. Constant meditation on God’s Word produces faith and obedience. How can you start increasing the amount of time you spend meditating on God’s Word? |

### CLASS PROCESSING (5 MINUTES)

### [At this point, the teacher will ask two to three participants to share what they have discussed in the group discussion during the application.]

### BREAK (10 MINUTES)

# Session 6 – FAITH AND PROVISION

### LOGISTICAL NEEDS

* video course by Bishop Juray Mora

### LECTURE (25 MINUTES)

[Bp Juray's story]

Whenever my youngest son Raymund finds something he likes to have or do he would put it in the context of his coming birthday. He would always try to get me to promise that I would get him what he likes. Most of the time my answer would be "we'll see". But there where times that I said yes. The smile in his face and the confidence he has says, "it's done." So as his birthday nears he would remind me and then we set the time to get it. Raymund does not think about how much things cost, he does not even think about what he could do to earn or deserve it. He just asks and gets me to a place to make a promise and he confidently knows it's done.

As we have looked into faith in the last sessions, we talked about hope, we looked at the amazing goodness of our God, and we looked at substance and evidence from the Word of God.

We also looked at why we need faith to grow. This time I would like us to look at the Word of God regarding provision and apply our faith to it as we believe God for our own needs

|  |
| --- |
| *6The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. 9As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” 10He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. 11You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.*2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-11 |

### EXPLANATION

|  |
| --- |
| 1. God’s will for our need is to provide (1) for it.*And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.*2 CORINTHIANS 9:8*You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.*2 CORINTHIANS 9:11 |

### EXPLANATION

God’s will for our need is provision. God desires and has planned for our provision.

We can confidently ask God for our needs because we know that He desires to provide for it.

|  |
| --- |
| 2. God is the source (2) of all provision. |

### EXPLANATION

God is the source, not our jobs, business, or partners. They are just instruments of God’s provision. Gods provision for us will never run dry.

How does His provision come?

|  |
| --- |
| 3. Generosity is the path (3) to our provision. |

### EXPLANATION

The law of sowing and reaping is applicable to giving. Our provision from God works like farming.

|  |
| --- |
| 4. The more you sow, the more you reap (4). |

### EXPLANATION

God will supply seed to the sower. Who is a sower?

A sower is somebody whose lifestyle is sowing. He or she is somebody who lives by sowing and reaping. If we simply work like weekend farmers or when we like to farm we will not have much harvest. It is not something you just try out, but something you live by.

|  |
| --- |
| 5. Tithing is the first (5) step toward generosity.*“Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.”*MALACHI 3:10 |

### EXPLANATION

Tithing is a promised way out of our limitations.

Tithing transfers our finances from the limited into the supernatural realm.

|  |
| --- |
| 6. The offering (6) is the time that we go into generosity. |

### EXPLANATION

When we give our offering beyond the tithe, we are moving into generosity. The more you sow the more harvest you can expect to receive. Giving is like sowing your seeds.

[You can share a testimony of generous giving as exemplified by the law of sowing and reaping].

|  |
| --- |
| 7. Generosity will lead us to the place of prosperity (7). |

### EXPLANATION

Proverbs 11:25 (NASB)

*The generous man will be prosperous, and he who waters will himself be watered.*

|  |
| --- |
| 8. The goal of prosperity is to be a blessing (8) to others. |

### EXPLANATION

There is a reason why God has planned and is working out our prosperity.

2 Corinthians 9:11

*You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.*

The goal of prosperity is not just to meet your needs, but also to be a blessing to others.

|  |
| --- |
| 9. God is not limited (9) by our limitations. |

### EXPLANATION

Faith will get us to the place of blessing and so that we can be a blessing to many.

|  |
| --- |
| 10. Faith simply means trusting (10) God. |

### EXPLANATION

How do we increase in our faith? When we read and meditate on the Word of God our faith and trust in God grows and develops.

Trusting God means we are standing in prayer and confessing the Word of God. We wait in faith and patience for the manifestation and fulfillment of the Word of God (Hebrews 6:12).

We act in faith and trust as we obey God’s Word and direction for us.

|  |
| --- |
| application (10 minutes)[The teacher may choose just one question and ask the participants to answer it by discussing within their groups. Class processing will be done after their discussion.]1. What are you believing God for in terms of provision? Pray for one another.
2. God blesses us to be a blessing. What steps can you take in the coming weeks to be a blessing to someone?

  |

### CLASS PROCESSING (5 MINUTES)

### [At this point, the teacher will ask two to three participants to share what they have discussed in the group discussion during the application.]

### BREAK (10 MINUTES)

1. John Goldingay. *Psalms, BCOT Vol. 3* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2008) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. David Guzik Commentary on the Bible [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://www.hopefaithprayer.com/faith/faith-hebrews-hupostasis/ [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. D.A. Carson. *Matthew: The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume* 8 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Corporation, 1984), 336. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Luke: The IVP New Testament Commentary Series <https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/ivp-nt/Healing-Paralytic-Authority-Forgive-Sin> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Albert Barnes' Notes on the Whole Bible <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/luke-17.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. J. Hampton Keathley, III. Biblical Meditation <https://bible.org/article/biblical-meditation> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)