



What Jesus Wanted His Disciples to Know Session 1

Welcome to Unshakeable Faith

a series of studies designed to help you begin building a strong, unshakeable faith in Jesus so that you can live God's best every day. In these four studies you will learn:

1. *What Jesus wanted His disciples to know.*
2. *Why Jesus is absolutely necessary.*
3. *What it really means to have faith in Jesus.*
4. *What happens to you when you become a Christian.*

If you dig in and put what you learn into practice, God will build an inner strength in you that will make your life unshakeable.

INTRODUCTIONS

- Share your name.
- Tell us briefly about your family.
- Will you share your story about what led you to make the decision to follow Jesus?

SMALL GROUP EXPECTATIONS

It is good to know what the group expects of each other. This helps to ensure that everyone has a positive experience and avoids conflicts caused by misunderstood expectations. Turn to the back page and review the small group guidelines. There is no need to make a commitment now, just review them and then go on through the study so everyone can get a taste for what the small group experience will be like. Then, before leaving, review the guidelines again and decide if you are prepared to make a commitment to them.

BIBLE STUDY

Read Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

1. How would you summarize in a few sentences what this parable is about?

2. In this parable, what does the seed represent? What does this parable tell us the seed is capable of doing?
3. In your own words, how would you describe the kind of person each type of soil represents? What would cause this condition? What is happening in their spiritual life and why?
 - Hard
 - Rocky
 - Thorny
 - Fertile
4. What lessons does Jesus want us to learn about being a disciple?

APPLICATION

1. Consider the types of bad soil described in this parable. Which one would you be most susceptible to becoming?
2. As you are beginning your life as a disciple, what is Jesus saying to you through this parable?
3. What action(s) will you take as a result of what you have learned?

PRAYER

Praying for others is a way to focus God's power on their needs. In the same way, people praying for you is like having God's power focused on your needs. So, we encourage you to share a prayer request with the group. This is voluntary and there is nothing wrong about not having anything you want to share.

REMEMBER: Whatever is shared is confidential.

When everyone has had an opportunity to share, take a minute to pray silently for the person on your right.

If you're not sure how to pray, the most important thing to know is that the only "perfect" prayers are authentic prayers. So, just be real and pray what's on your mind. God will take it from there.

PERSONAL GROWTH

For God's message to take root and start growing in your life, you need to be studying the Bible. We want to help. There's no better place to start than by reading about the life of Jesus. By following the suggested reading schedule below, you will have read through the book of Mark over the next 3 sessions.

Set aside 15 minutes a day. If you can, we recommend doing it at the beginning of the day so that your time spent with God's word doesn't get crowded out as your day gets busy. As you read we suggest using a simple Bible Study method we call "The 4 C's."

If there are things you read that you don't understand, don't worry. Just make a note to ask someone like your group leader about it later. Don't feel like you have to dissect and understand every nuance of the chapter. If you are able to gain even one lesson a day that you can put into practice, then you are off to a great start.

When you use these 4 C questions, sometimes you will be able to come up with answers for all four questions and other times you may only be able to answer a couple questions. When you're done with your study, spend a little time in prayer. You can use the 4 C questions to guide your prayer starting with praising God then confessing sin, making commitments, and finally, praying for your needs and requests.

The 4 C's

CELEBRATE: What can you praise God for from this passage?

CONFESS: Does this passage convict you of something you need to confess to God?

COMMIT: What commitment does this passage challenge you to make?

COMMUNICATE: What did you learn that you could share with someone else?

- Day 1: Mark chapter 1
- Day 2: Mark chapter 2
- Day 3: Mark chapter 3
- Day 4: Mark chapter 4
- Day 5: Mark chapter 5

COMING UP

The next three sessions in this series will help you get rooted in your new life with Jesus. With strong roots you will develop an unshakeable faith and live a thriving life filled with Jesus' love, joy, peace and power.

In the next 3 sessions you'll dig deeper into:

- *Why you absolutely need Jesus.*
- *What faith in Jesus really means.*
- *What happens to you when you become a Christian.*

KEEP BUILDING THE MOMENTUM

When you finish this 4-week study, there are two more 4-week studies you can continue with.

Power Up (4 Sessions)

Learn how to use God-given tools for developing an unshakeable faith. If you want to experience God's best every day, these tools are indispensable.

Break Free (4 Sessions)

Learn how to break sin habits and deal with the temptations that can choke out God's best for your life.

Small Group

Guidelines & Agreement

It's a good idea for every group to put words to their shared expectations and commitments. These guidelines will help you avoid unmet expectations. We recommend that you discuss and commit to these guidelines as a foundation for a healthy group experience. Feel free to customize these guidelines to express your group's expectations.

WE AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING VALUES:

Group Attendance	To give priority to the group meeting (call if I am absent or late)
Safe Environment	To create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved (no quick answers, snap judgments, or simple fixes)
Be Confidential	To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential
Spiritual Health	To give group members permission to help me live a healthy, balanced spiritual life that is pleasing to God
Welcome Newcomers	To invite our friends who might benefit from this study and warmly welcome newcomers
Building Relationships	To get to know the other members of the group and pray for them regularly
Other	<hr/> <hr/>