



## ONE STEP AT A TIME

### BIG IDEA

Faced with layers of disappointment and frustration I can become angry, edgy, lethargic and critical OR I can choose Faith First.

### SCRIPTURE

Please read Acts 1:3-14 before your small group study

### OPENER

Having experienced the changing culture and a pandemic, how has this altered situations in your life? Share one or two things that have caused you frustrations. How have you been working to overcome your frustrations? Discuss.

### QUESTIONS

1. Pastor John is teaching about keeping Faith First. What responsibilities, changing plans or disappointments have you experienced in 2020? How have these unplanned occurrences interfered with your ability to keep focus on and carryout the priorities of your faith? Discuss.
2. The disciples were disappointed and frustrated when the Kingdom of God was not revealed as they thought, with Jesus as the king of Israel. Instead, Jesus went to the Father and left them the Holy Spirit. Have you ever had expectations of God and he either said “no” or gave you an alternative answer? Discuss. Do you consider that time in your faith walk as a time of separation from the Lord or a time of testing? Explain. What did you learn from that experience? Share.
3. Before Jesus ascended, he told the disciples to return to Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit. In faith, they did as they were told and went back to the upper room. Pastor John spoke about the importance of taking the next step of obedience, because then the following step will be revealed and ultimately you are walking with Christ! Share with the group a time when you have experienced this faith walk.
4. The disciples did not just pray alone in their prayer closet, they were together, united in prayer. In your group, what benefits do you receive when you are together, uniting in prayer? What can we learn from their example? (James 5:16; Acts 12:5; 12:12; 21:5)
5. The eleven disciples had their differences but were able to set aside those differences and commit to telling others about the Lord, Jesus Christ. How can we apply this example to our circumstances today?



6. This week I will start two lists. The first, Things I Can Control and second, Things I Cannot Control. I will pray about and work diligently on the things I can and need to control. The things I cannot control I will give to the Lord, and rest in Him. I will share with my group, when we next meet, how this exercise has helped me choose faith first!

### TAKEAWAY

- I choose FAITH by owning what I can control and releasing what I cannot.
- When I focus on what I can control I find purpose, fulfillment and FAITH.
- Owning my schedule, my habits and my routine shape my emotions and outlook.
- If I choose FAITH with what I can control, God will handle what I cannot control.
- As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

### REFERENCES

Joshua 24:14-15

Romans 10:9-10; 10:17

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

2 Corinthians 5:7

### DIGGING DEEPER

- In Esther we read about a culture where disappointment, frustration, and potential ruin have gripped the Israelites. Based on the learning from that book and how faith in action transformed the situation, what things could we start to adopt to bring faith to action in our culture and situation?

\*Realize you are here now, in this place for a reason. Realize that God will accomplish His will with or without you, don't you want to be part of the movement of His Kingdom? Realize that you must be willing to sacrifice possible self-security to secure a higher purpose in God's kingdom.