



Beyond By Your Hand

God wants us to go *beyond*, but that can only happen by His hand. We must ask God to grant us more wisdom and faith in our daily lives and rely on Him to lead us. As we seek to make an eternal impact in our world, we will most likely be required to lay some things down. Often, we will have to lay down our own selfishness, the feeling that we cannot take on anything else, and the disappointments of when God did not move in a way that we thought He would. The more we grow in our faith and trust God, the more we will see His kingdom at work.

GET THINGS STARTED

Would you consider yourself to be a risk-taker (someone who throws caution to the wind), or do you tend to be a person who errs on the side of caution (someone who has to know and approve all the details before a choice is typically made)? What are the strengths, and weaknesses, of either leaning, especially when it comes to larger life decisions?

GO DEEPER

1. In Matthew 10:16, what does it mean to be *shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves*. What do you think it looks like to have wisdom and yet be full of faith when it comes to important, life-shaping decisions?
2. From reading Hebrews 11:6, why is it impossible to please God without faith? What are the warning signs that *wisdom* has become a mask for a lack of faith, or that reckless *faith* has become a mask for a lack of wisdom?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Think back of a time when your faith in God required you to take a significant risk. What was the situation, and how did it play out? What did you learn from the experience?
2. What does it look like for you to pray a selfish prayer versus a prayer with correct motives (James 4:3)? How do you know the difference? What steps do you need to take to steer your prayers away from being only about you?
3. When have you felt disappointed or frustrated because God didn't answer your prayer the way you hoped He would, and did that disappointment make you hesitant to pray to Him again? How and when has God given you exceedingly more than you thought He would?

PRACTICE IT NOW

Take some time as a group to ask God for more wisdom, as well as more faith. If you have been disappointed or frustrated with God, because He didn't move in a way that you thought He would, be honest with Him about that hurt. Pray that God would steer you from selfish prayers to prayers that are for His glory. Finally, ask the Lord to show you new opportunities to make an impact for His kingdom (e.g. with your family, your place of employment, your neighborhood, etc.).