

Res · o · lute

(adj.) Admirably purposeful, determined, and unwavering

DEVELOPING "EVEN IF" FAITH

Lesson 1: Group Session

But **even if** he [God] does not [deliver them from the fiery furnace], we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up." (Daniel 3:18, NIV) ~Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

But I will rejoice **even if** I lose my life, pouring it out like a liquid offering to God, just like your faithful service is an offering to God. (Philippians 2:17a, NLT) ~Paul

But **even if** you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened." (1 Peter 3:14, NIV) ~Peter

Resolute, "even if" faith.

Defining *Resolute*

Definition of *Resolute*: Admirably purposeful, determined, and _____

Antonyms of *Resolute*: afraid, cowardly, fearful, unreliable, _____, weak

A Quick Study Of Peace

do not be **anxious** about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the **peace** of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7, ESV)

Anxious: a part, as opposed to the whole, drawn in opposite directions, _____

Peace: _____, when all essential parts are joined together

Notice how the above verse describes this peace as the *peace* _____. This peace is a

_____ (Galatians 5:22), which means it is not a fruit of the flesh.

We are able to feel the peace of God in _____.

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made... (Romans 1:20a, NIV)

Peace and rest are parts of God's nature. The words *God of peace* and *peace of God* are found all throughout Scripture. Jesus is the _____ (Isaiah 9:6); and knowing God is equated with _____ all throughout the Bible.

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. (Matthew 11:28-30, NIV)

This type of peace, the kind of peace which results in _____, comes only through faith in Jesus Christ.

It all starts with faith.

If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all. (Isaiah 7:9b, NIV)

Everything hinges upon faith, including peace.

Resolute _____ results in resolute _____.

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock. (Isaiah 26:3-4, ESV)

Trust means "to be _____."

Defining Faith

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. (Hebrews 11:1, NIV)

Trust and faith are _____. Faith is to be _____ what we hope for and sure about what we don't see.

What are those things which we should have *confidence in* and *assurance about*?

By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. (Hebrews 11:3, NIV)

God is _____ over that which he created.

Foundational Truths Of Faith

1. God is _____.

But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations. (Psalm 33:11, NIV)

2. God is _____.

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made. (Psalm 145:8-9, ESV)

3. God desires all people to _____.

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9, NIV)

4. God *will* work _____ together for good for those who love him.

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28, ESV)

5. God is always _____.

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28:20b, NIV)

Another Reason For Faith

And 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. (Hebrews 11:6, NIV)

Faith _____, and God _____ those who seek him.

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. (Jeremiah 29:13, NIV)

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. (Matthew 7:7-8, NIV)

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. (James 4:8a, ESV)

When we seek God, God _____.

Faith-Full Doesn't Mean Perfect

We serve a God who redeems our mistakes in order to identify us by our _____ rather than our _____!

Call To Action

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses [such inspiring heroes of faith], let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. (Hebrews 12:1-2a, NIV)

1. Throw off everything that _____ our faith.
2. Run with perseverance by _____ on Jesus.

To End (Back To Where We Started)

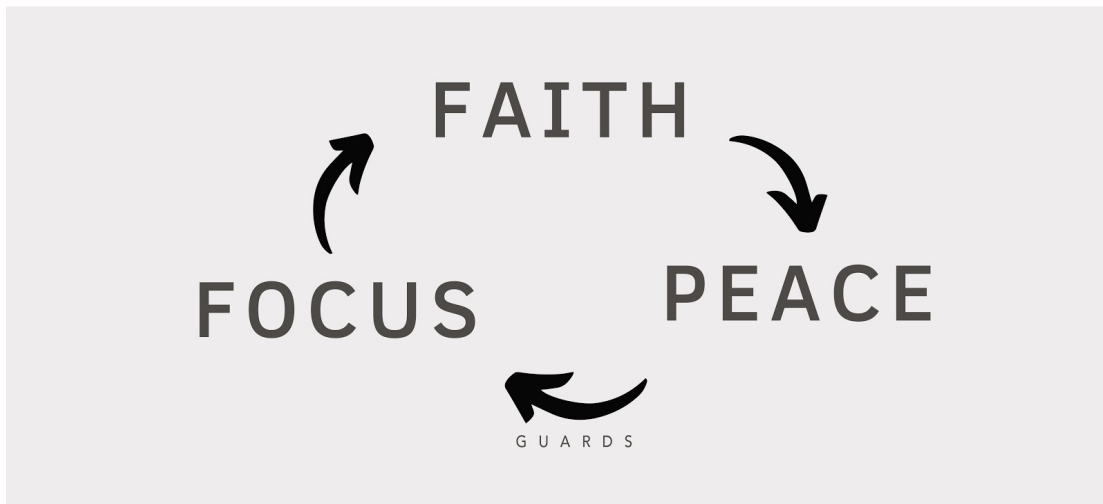
You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock. (Isaiah 26:3-4, ESV)

FOCUS _____ → FAITH _____ → PEACE

But we never have to do it without God:

do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds** in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7, ESV)

Faith Cycle



Oh Lord, teach us what we need to learn to have resolute faith. Thank you for who you are. Thank you that you love us, and help us to know you more. Let us not come out of this study the same way we went in!