

A WINNING FAITH: A DECLARATION OF FAITH

Use this guide for personal or small group study.

REFLECT >>>

1. In your opinion, is it important to make public declarations of your faith? Why or why not?
2. What does publicity declaring your faith look like to you?
3. What challenges do you face in sharing your faith with others?
4. Do you think God expects you to share your faith with others? Why or why not?

READ YOUR BIBLE >>>

- Joshua 24:1-15 (NIV)
- Matthew 16:13-18 (NIV)

APPLY GOD'S WORD TO YOUR LIFE >>>

1. Joshua recounts what God had done for His people. Why do you think it's important for Joshua to share God's story?
2. If someone asked you about your faith, how would you describe God's story to that person?
3. Joshua then gets personal with his declaration of faith, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Why do you suppose it is important for Joshua to make this personal declaration?
4. Why do you suppose Peter's declaration of faith was important for him?
5. Based on scripture, do you think Peter's declaration mattered to Jesus? Why or why not?

6. Think about how you would share your faith story with another person? What would you say?

A vibrant God-honoring faith is personal, but it is also public. As followers of Jesus we are His plan to reach out with the Good News of God's grace. There is no plan B. We are it. As challenging as it can be to share our faith with others it is a necessity of who we are as people of faith. When we declare our faith, sharing it with others, our faith becomes more substantial. It grows. It becomes a solid foundation upon which we stand and build our lives. Our faith extends beyond what it does for us personally to influence family, friends and neighbors--enlightening them. God's story needs to be shared. How your story connects with what God is doing in your life is your declaration of faith. Today is the day to stand with Joshua and Peter and all the saints and declare your faith. Jesus is depending on you to do so and it will make God smile.

PRAY >>>

Lord God, too often I confess I do not share my faith when I have the opportunity. I keep it hidden away, afraid of what others will say or think of me. Please know, Lord, I am not offended by who You are or what You have done for me. I love You Lord and need Your help in reaching out to share my faith with others. Give me courage and give me the grace I need to declare my faith as opportunities present themselves to me. Here I am Lord, use me to advance the cause of Your kingdom by sharing my faith with others. Amen.