

*The Space Between  
"Shut up" and "March"*  
Sermon Small Group Notes  
Speaker: Pastor Tim Bittle

## USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

- This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. After considering the needs of your group, you may choose one of the following options:
  1. one section of questions
  2. one or two questions from each section
- Feel free to adapt the format to meet the needs of your group. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, add Scripture and ask suitable questions. Remember that this is only a guide.
- Personal application is key to everyone's growth and should be included in every discussion. When asked how he or she intends to apply a certain principle a group member may say, "I need to spend more time in the Bible and in prayer." It is important for you to help group members make applications that are more specific and commit to a specific plan of action by asking, for example, "How are you going to begin?" An example is to get up 30 minutes earlier each morning, spending 15 minutes reading the Bible and 10 minutes in prayer. Encourage each group member to be accountable to the group for personal progress at the next meeting.
- As the leader your goal is to help bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their need for personal life change. Ultimately you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.

## INTRODUCTION

Faith is a big deal, in fact with out Faith it is impossible to please God.

Faith is the substance of things unseen.

We are saved through faith in Christ Jesus. The very promise of salvation is ours through Faith. In fact every promise given by God is apprehended through Faith.

## MESSAGE

### **Apprehending the promises of God through Faith**

Once you have put your Faith in Christ for your salvation, the things we need Faith for, should come easy, however that is usually not our experience.

Is your faith being watered down by your experiences, or are your experiences a result of your lack of Faith?

Here is the account of Joshua and the children of Israel after they wandered in the desert for 40 years and are finally entering into the promised land.

[Joshua 1:1-3 NLT]

*After the death of Moses the LORD's servant, the LORD spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant. He said, "Moses my servant is dead. Therefore, the time has come for you to lead these people, the Israelites, across the Jordan River into the land I am giving them. I promise you what I promised Moses: 'Wherever you set foot, you will be on land I have given you*

[Joshua 6:2-5 NLT]

*But the LORD said to Joshua, "I have given you Jericho, its king, and all its strong warriors. You and your fighting men should march around the town once a day for six days. Seven priests will walk ahead of the Ark, each carrying a ram's horn. On the seventh day you are to march around the town seven times, with the priests blowing the horns. When you hear the priests give one long blast on the rams' horns, have all the people shout as loud as they can. Then the walls of the town will collapse, and the people can charge straight into the town."*

[Joshua 6:6-11, 20, 21 NLT]

*So Joshua called together the priests and said, "Take up the Ark of the LORD's Covenant, and assign seven priests to walk in front of it, each carrying a ram's horn." Then he gave orders to the people: "March around the town, and the armed men will lead the way in front of the Ark of the LORD."*

*After Joshua spoke to the people, the seven priests with the rams' horns started marching in the presence of the LORD, blowing the horns as they marched. And the Ark of the LORD's Covenant followed behind them. Some of the armed men marched in front of the priests with the horns and some behind the Ark, with the priests continually blowing the horns. "Do not shout; do not even talk," Joshua commanded. "Not a single word from any of you until I tell you to shout. Then shout!" So the Ark of the LORD was carried around the town once that day, and then everyone returned to spend the night in the camp.*

*When the people heard the sound of the rams' horns, they shouted as loud as they could. Suddenly, the walls of Jericho collapsed, and the Israelites charged straight into the town and captured it. They completely destroyed everything in it with their swords—men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep, goats, and donkeys.*

Joshua heard the word of God and kept his eyes on the author of the promise and not the promise itself.

[Romans 10:17 NLT]

*So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.*

Every promise has an inception date and a day of fulfillment as long as we fill the space between inception and fulfillment with the end in mind we will succeed.

Every promise is contingent on you walking toward the promise with Faith in the one who made the promise.

Moses generation fell short of the promise because they lost sight of the promise maker and walked in disbelief.

The greatest battlefield is the space between inception of a promise and the fulfillment of it. Many lose the battle, will you maintain Faith or throw in the towel?

To maintain our faith we must continue to listen to the promise maker and not to the doubters that we may be surrounded by.

Doubt is the poison that pollutes the space between inception and fulfillment. Doubt will keep you from believing in the promise maker. The reason people stop believing is because they stop hearing God and start listening to those around them.

To live in the space between inspection of a promise and the fulfillment of it, all you have to do is "Shut up and march!"

Get your eyes off of your surroundings and remember the promise made by the one who can fulfill it.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1. What are some of Gods promises you are waiting to see fulfilled?**
- 2. How do we sustain faith in the space between inception of a promise and the fulfillment of it?**
- 3. Is your faith being watered down by your experiences, or are your experiences a result of your lack of Faith?**
- 4. What are some of the ways we talk ourselves into unbelief? How does silence reinforce the practice of faith and obedience?**
- 5. Who are you walking along side, building each other up in faith?**
- 6. What are some promises that you need to pick back up?**