

FAITH DRIVEN ENTREPRENEUR

Faithful vs Willful

(BONUS)

This guide is intended for personal reflection and to help facilitate a meaningful group discussion. Take a moment to watch the video and read over the guide before your group meeting. Be prepared with some personal examples to help encourage discussion. If helpful, before you meet, print out or email a copy of this guide to all those who will attend the meeting.

Faithful -vs- Willful

PRUNING TO GROW

Psalms 23 is a well known cry out to God from King David. The language is strong and sometimes bleak. And yet, there is great hope found in every line.

Take verse 4 for example..."Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death..." At first glance, this can seem like such despair. But with context, we come to find a beautiful truth here.

David was a shepherd who had looked after sheep much of his life. This life spent traveling with a flock brought him face to face with all sorts of terrain. And while you and I might think that mountaintops are where we are aiming, David sees it differently. Because it is in the valleys where we find shelter. We find food. We find water. The valley is actually the preferred place to be.

In our modern understanding of God and the world it's hard for us to recognize there's a tension of waiting faithfully on the Lord and boldly taking action. This is the valley. And if we can accept it for what it is, then these moments are more about resting and healing than they are about doing.

We know that start ups fail on an order of magnitude. How does someone know when it is time to admit defeat and pivot? We don't want to talk about failure....but perhaps there's a way that we as Faith Driven Entrepreneurs can fail well?

We don't want to talk about the "valley of death" that King David describes, and yet God is right there waiting for us to give us shelter and provision.

What does it take for us to grow? Is some pruning in order?



GUIDING SCRIPTURE:

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.” —Psalm 23:1-4

ACTION	FOCUS	ESTIMATED TIME
Welcome	<p>QUESTION: What burdens are you carrying? What do you need to put aside today to be present and here to support your growth and contribute meaningfully.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 seconds around the circle • Verbalize what to put aside. • Option to write and put in a basket. 	10 mins
Video Session	<p>INTRODUCTION: We don't want to talk about the “valley of death” that King David describes, and yet God is right there waiting for us to give us shelter and provision. Talk about this with your group. Invite discussion about a subject that many of us don't want to even consider, much less put words to.</p>	15 mins
Group Discussion	<p>Group Discussion: Ask each person to share and incorporate any learnings from the video. Here are a few questions to get you started:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where are you at in your journey of creating a company? • What interest do you have, if any, in scaling your business? <p>Facilitator asks if any members would like to share an action they are committing to take this month based on the discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group members share any practice they would like to start or discontinue in their personal life of business via Zoom chat or post-it note • Other members agree to pray for and hold them accountable.. 	45-60 mins
(Optional) Business Spotlight	<p>One individual presents information on their business venture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One person shares about their business model, stage and scope • Participants ask questions and get to know more 	10 mins
Prayer	<p>The group wraps in a time of prayer and encouragement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Popcorn prayer—Designate one person to begin the prayer and another person to end the prayer. Then allow space and moments of silence for people to 	10 mins

ACTION	FOCUS	ESTIMATED TIME
	pray as they feel led. • Zoom rooms or small groups for prayer	

Discussion Questions

What happens when standing strong means changing course? When do we let go of something good for something better? Change isn't always sudden. And we can find ourselves in a valley for a prolonged season. This in-between is the tough part and it's easy to lose confidence. If we're surrounded by people we can count on—a group of peers and trusted allies—we can draw strength and support from them.

VALLEYS LEAD TO MOUNTAINTOPS

We have a tendency to focus exclusively on mountain-top moments. And who wouldn't want to experience only success and prosperity? And yet, it is in the valleys where we are replenished and nourished.

- **The only way to the top of another mountain is traveling through a valley. When was the last time you failed?**
- **What did you learn?**
- **How did the experience make you stronger, wiser, and determined to succeed?**

GOD IS WITH YOU

When things get tough, we tend to believe that God has abandoned us. And we lie to ourselves thinking that we're on our own. This couldn't be further from the truth because Scripture tells us that God never leaves us.

- **How has your faithfulness made it possible for you to endure difficulty and disaster?**
- **How has God shown his presence to you?**
- **How have people played a part in supporting you and serving as the hands and feet of Christ?**

5 Ideas to Explore the Mark Further

There's no limit to the ways you can explore the Marks of a Faith Driven Entrepreneur. What we provide below are five ideas we think might lead each one of us to an even greater understanding of our God-given call to create.

1. **Journal:** Write down when you were at your lowest point. How did you feel? What did you experience? Looking back on it now, in what ways—big and small—did God show his faithfulness and steadfastness to you?
2. **Interact:** This month, reach out to a member of your group. Grab some time together to discuss the valleys and mountaintops you have experienced. What have you learned about yourself? What have you learned about God?
3. **Consider:** During today's video session, our friends at C12 captured the powerful story of Lara Casey, CEO of Cultivate What Matters. She shared her story of re-focusing her sights and energy to grow things that matter. She also shares insights about realizing when it's time to prune in order to truly flourish. What did you take away from the story?
4. **Act Differently:** Spend time in prayer and reflection about the difficult things you've had to deal with in your business and life. Wrestle with God about those things. Be honest with your feelings just like King David is throughout the Psalms. Give yourself permission to ask God the tough questions.
5. **Learn From Others:** Visit faithdrivenentrepreneur.org to learn more or join the conversation by listening to our weekly Faith Driven Entrepreneur Podcast.

Entrepreneurs can travel a lonely road. But you're not alone. You're sitting next to a group of like-minded business owners right now. One of the best ways to grow the Faith Driven Movement is to multiply your group.

Is someone in your group ready to raise his or her hand to start a Faith Driven Entrepreneur Group at a local church? Apply at faithdrivenentrepreneur.org/lead-a-group