



STUDY GUIDE

RISK-TAKERS 01.22.2017

*Note to LifeGroup leaders and participants: use what you learned and experienced in the "Living New" study to enhance this guide. What stories can you tell? How can you use post it's and other tools to brainstorm, create helpful lists, guide conversations, and bring application? How can that study enhance your prayer time?

[set up]

When you were a child, who was your hero? Was it a parent, friend, sports star, or a comic book character? Why was that person your hero?

Today, what qualities do you look for in a hero, or someone you admire and emulate?

Was there anything from the sermon that spoke to you?

[digging deeper]

Eugene Peterson: Discipleship is "a long obedience in the same direction."

This past week we looked at the story of Noah from Genesis 6-9. There is a temptation to view characters like Noah as Old Testament heroes. But in reality, Noah was risky simply by daily obedience to God.

America is said to have a "hero culture" where we look for specially gifted and driven individuals to make a huge difference. The social sciences have done research that shows this isn't really the case. Do you think our hero culture impacts the way you view risk-taking and growing as a Christian? In what ways?

Read Hebrews 11:6-7. How do risk-taking, obedience, and faith coincide? How do they coincide in your own life?

We often don't like to talk about God as a judge. But throughout the Scriptures, it is clear that God is a just judge who punishes sin. Read Matthew 24:36-39 which talks about the second coming of Jesus. Why is it good news that God punishes sin? What role did Jesus play regarding God's punishment?

Read 2 Peter 2:4-10. Is it hard for you to get excited about God as a righteous judge? Why or why not? As a group, think of all the benefits to having a God who is a righteous judge.

[living it out]

Pastor Josh challenged us to take a risk spiritually by taking a Sabbath, relationally by getting in a LifeGroup (gold star for you!), financially by increasing your giving, and conversationally by engaging as a LifeHouse. Have you taken his challenge? What is holding you back from taking those risks?

Prayer

Spend 15 minutes in prayer together. It's ok if there is silence for a while. Have someone open and after 15 minutes ask someone to close. Pray about the following things:

- That each of us will be daily obedient to God's call and command.
- That we see every conversation, email, errand, and task as the environment where God changes us.
- That we will live (in a culture that is hostile to Christ) in ways that bless the world.
- That we give those closest to us our full presence, so that we will not neglect our greatest responsibility.