



STUDY GUIDE

Risk-Takers | Kickoff *Risky Faith | 01.01.17*

[set up]

Ask your group members to share something that especially stood out to them, that especially encouraged them, or that they found especially helpful from the message this week. If your group is large, you may only have time for two or three responses.

Share with the group what God spoke to you about your need for Risky Faith in 2017. Be vulnerable with your group. *Tell them that they'll have an opportunity to share what God spoke to them at the end of your time together.*

Have a member of the group open in prayer.

Create a Post-it with "The Definition of Faith" on it. Brainstorm possible definitions for "faith" from personal experience as well as from those you know who might not share a Christian worldview.

Create a second Post-it with "Risky Behavior" on one side and "*Risky Faith*" on the other. Have each member give some examples of each as you write them on the Post-it. Discuss how *Risky Faith* differs from Risky Behavior.

[digging deeper]

Read Hebrews 10:19-39 together as a group.

Based on Hebrews 10:22:

"...let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."

Ask your group what "full assurance of faith" is. Have one or two members share their answers.

Based on Hebrews 10:24:

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works..."

Ask the members of your group to share their ideas for what we can do for each other "to stir one another up to love and good works"?

Read James 2:14-26 together.

Hand out a blank piece of paper to each group member. Ask them to compare “endurance” in Hebrews 10:36 and “works” in James 2:18. Have them write at the top of the sheet of paper “Endurance” in one column and “Works” in a second column. As you compare these two ideas, brainstorm your ideas together and have them write their thoughts in the appropriate column.

Read Ephesians 2:8-10 as a group.

Based on Ephesians 2:8:

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God...”

Ask your group which comes first: faith or good works. Discuss together why God gives priority to one over the other without minimizing either.

Print the image on the last page of this Study Guide and hand out copies to your group members. With the print-out in hand and based on Ephesians 2:10:

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

Ask your group members why this verse says that we are “...created ... **for** good works.” Discuss your answers together.


[living it out]

Have one or two group members share what they believe God is calling them to do in 2017 that is *Risky Faith*.

On a Post-it write “God is calling me to...” and list some of those things that God is calling you and your group members to do in 2017. Add to the list the following (if not already listed):

- ... give more of myself to His ministry.
- ... teach.
- ... disciple someone.
- ... give more financially than I’ve ever given before.
- ... plant a church.
- ... move with a campus plant in the future.
- ... serve on a short-term mission trip for the first time, the third time, or the twentieth time.
- ... give my livelihood up here and serve Him in a foreign country.
- ... full-time missions.
- ... adopt.
- ... adopt a special-needs child.

Pray for the members of your group for their *Risky Faith* that God is calling them to in 2017 as you close your time together.



*For we are his workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus*

for good works,

*which God prepared beforehand,
that we should walk in them.*

Ephesians 2:10 ESV