

LIVING BEYOND

WHEN THE WORLD DOESN'T

DISCUSSION GUIDE

MAIN IDEA: What looks ridiculous to the world, can be the power of God actively saving.

WELCOME 10 MINUTES

Have you ever done something as a Christian that you were ridiculed or mocked for?

WORSHIP 10 MINUTES

Jesus prepares his followers to suffer and be persecuted for the faith. In some countries the persecution is a physical threat and in others the persecution is through shame, oppression, and marginalization. Read Matthew 5:11-12. Then pray for God to give you the courage to live out a faith worth persecution and for strength when the persecution comes.

WORD 35 MINUTES

Our fall series on Hebrews 11 will cover numerous Old Testament stories. So while our weekly discussion will unpack Hebrews 11 and the weekend message, let's also commit to reading God's Word before meeting together so we have a fresh view of the whole story.

1. Read Hebrews 11:7. What are the inspiring aspects of Noah's faith?
2. Through his faith how were others impacted?
3. The phrasing of *by his faith he condemned the rest of the world* (NIV) can be confusing. The Message translation says, *His act of faith drew a sharp line between the evil of the unbelieving world and the rightness of the believing world.* How does this phrasing help you better understand this part of the verse?

4. How have you seen God show up in moments of intense faith in your life?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31. Ridiculous faith is what the world sees when they look at disciples of Jesus. But the life of faith can seem upside down to an unbelieving world (ex: "*the last shall be first, and the first shall be last*" Matthew 20:16). How do you see Paul trying to describe this upside down faith in this passage?
6. What are examples of things that Christians are called to that seem foolish to the world?
7. At the end of the passage, what is the reason Paul gives for God choosing "what is low and despised in the world"?
8. Is there an area you feel like God is calling you to live in greater faith but to your mind or flesh it seems ridiculous?

WORKS 15 MINUTES

1. Serve Day is coming up on Saturday, October 17. What a great opportunity to serve as the church and as a group. Connect with the Outreach team to reserve your spot on a project. There are also a host of serving opportunities through the next couple of weeks.
2. Daily Devotion: Read Genesis 12-18, 21 in preparation for next week's message and group discussion.