

INVITATIONS

COME.

Faith in Fretful Times

Psalm 37:1-9; Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4; Luke 17:5-10; 2 Timothy 1:1-14

GETTING STARTED

What word or phrase would you choose to describe the state of the world today?

Do the Psalm and Habakkuk passages have something in common with your response? Why or why not?

READ AND REFLECT

How do the four Bible passages for this week speak to the theme of faithfulness?

- Psalm 37:1-9
- Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4
- Luke 17:5-10
- 2 Timothy 1:1-14

What other themes or ideas “pop” for you in these texts?

ENGAGE AND DISCUSS

Have you ever had one of those moments (perhaps you are in one now) when you simply say, "Lord, increase my faith"? If comfortable, share what led you to this plea.

Which is more difficult for you to practice in life?

- Persevering Grace (extending grace to others who are hurtful or an "enemy")
- Persevering Faith (a long obedience and hope in the same direction)

What do feel limits your (or others) faith at times?

How does 2 Timothy 1:5-14 call us to bolster our faith? What must we realize and do?

Respond to this statement from Rev. Meyer's sermon:

This clarity about who is the Master and who is the servant is the essential difference between being a disciple of Jesus and merely being a cultural Christian or something else.

Close your group discussion with this simple prayer. Perhaps have one person read this aloud and have everyone end by saying "Amen."

Master, I am your faithful servant. Please increase my faith. Help me to trust YOU and to keep doing good until I can look at my life and the way you've worked within it and proclaim with joyful gratitude: "This is good!" For this I pray in the name of you who transformed a Cross of Death into a Bridge to Life. In Christ's name, Amen.

NEXT STEPS:

- Commit to reading the lectionary passages for this week.
- As often as it comes to mind, repeat to yourself, "Lord, increase my faith."
- Reflect on what would be different if you lived more into Psalm 37: 4-5.