

Thornbury Baptist Church
Small Group Discussion Questions

Talk Date: March 1st 2026

Talk title: According to your Faith

Passage: Matt 9:27-34

Speaker: David Lawrence

Discussion Questions

1. In the talk David developed the theme of 'faith IN God', and not just faith FOR particular things. Did you find that distinction helpful? Why / why not?

2. In the passage Jesus' question (v28) defined the simple kind of faith he was looking for (i.e. a belief that he was able to do what was asked of him). How does this understanding of faith sit with the definition found in Hebrews 11:1?

3. In the talk David suggested that our experience of life's challenges and disappointments could tarnish our view of God as all-loving, all-wise and all-powerful. Do you agree? Do you have experience of your faith in God being challenged in this way? What was that like and how did you respond?

4. Faith IN God, leads to a faith in God's *providence* (trusting his care and provision, and his ability to work in our circumstances). Sometimes this means trusting in God when we do not get the answers we'd hoped for (e.g. see 2 Corinthians 12:8,9).

- What are the challenges of 'trusting God in the dark', when we do not get quick answers to our prayers, or when we don't get the answer we'd hoped for?
- How would you explain this experience to a new Christian?

5. Faith IN God also leads us to trust his promises. Are there particular promises that people in the group are holding onto? If appropriate, pray with one another, for strength to keep trusting.

6. Faith IN God means that we do not give up praying for our heart's desire, even when we don't get quick answers. See the advice that Jesus gave in Luke 11:5-11 and Luke 18:1-8. How easy or difficult is it to have faith to keep praying for the same thing over an extended period of time? What sustains that kind of faith?

7. Read Psalm 16:8. Practically, what does it take to 'set the Lord always before me'? What have group members found has helped them keep their focus on God in difficult times?

Takeaway

What is the main thing each person is taking away from this discussion?

Spend time praying with one another in the light of your discussion.