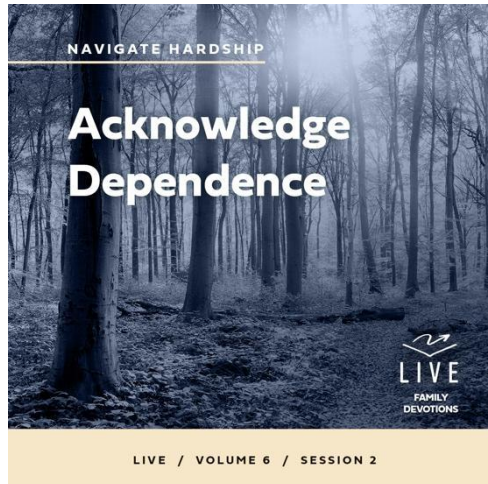




Day 1

Faith Fact

I can trust God to answer.

Faith Verse

Psalm 34:19 (NLT)

The righteous person faces many troubles, but the Lord comes to the rescue each time.

Question of the Day: Why should you trust the way God answers your prayers?

Read about It

Read: Luke 1:6–25

Have you ever had to wait a long time for something you really wanted? While we wait, we can often think that what we're waiting for will never arrive. In that time of waiting for something to happen, it's easy to feel hopeless, anxious, or even angry.

For many years, Zechariah and Elizabeth weren't able to have a baby. And at the time of this story, they were both very old—too old to have a baby. They had hoped for a long time to have a baby. During that time, they remained faithful to God. Then the day came that God answered their prayer. Sometimes, God's timing and the way He works is different from what we think it should be. But when we trust God and remain faithful to Him, He will always answer us in the way that He knows is best.

Talk about It

Question 1. What did Zechariah and Elizabeth want that they were unable to have?

Answer 1. A baby (Luke 1:7)

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Question 2. Who told Zechariah that Elizabeth was going to have a baby?

Answer 2. The angel Gabriel (Luke 1:19)

Question 3. Have you ever felt hopeless while waiting for God to answer your prayers?

Why or why not?

Answer 3. Answers will vary.

Question 4. What can you do to depend on God—even when it seems like God is taking a long time to answer?

Answer 4. Answers will vary.

Question 5. Why should you trust the way God answers your prayers?

Answer 5. Answers will vary.

Pray about It

Dear God, I know You want the best for me, and Your timing and plans are perfect. Help me to trust Your wisdom and the way You answer my prayers. Amen.

Day 2

Faith Fact

I can trust God to answer.

Faith Verse

Psalm 34:19 (NLT)

The righteous person faces many troubles, but the Lord comes to the rescue each time.

Question of the Day: Why can we trust God to answer us?

Read about It

Read: Luke 1:57–66

Can you imagine how Zechariah and Elizabeth must have felt after John was born? They had served God faithfully in the time when they had prayed to God for a baby and didn't get the answer they were hoping for. They continued to obey God, and at just the right time God

changed their situation. God knew what He was doing. Not only did He have a plan for Zechariah and Elizabeth, but He had a plan for the baby, John, as well. God's plan was bigger than what Zechariah and Elizabeth could have ever imagined.

The Lord answered their prayers exactly as He had said He would. Everything that God had told them would happen actually happened. God is true to what He tells us, and when He says He will do something, He will. We can depend on Him. When His Word, the Bible, says something, we can trust that it will happen. God's plan for us is more than we could imagine. Even when it's hard, we can trust that God knows what He's doing. He answered and kept His word for Zechariah and Elizabeth, and He will for you too.

Talk about It

Question 1. What did Zechariah and Elizabeth name their son?

Answer 1. John (Luke 1:60)

Question 2. What happened after Zechariah wrote on the tablet that the baby's name should be, "John"?

Answer 2. Zechariah was able to speak again, and he began praising God. (Luke 1:64)

Question 3. How does it make you feel knowing that God does what He says He will do?

Answer 3. Answers will vary.

Question 4. How has God kept His promises to you?

Answer 4. Answers will vary.

Question 5. Why can we trust God to answer us?

Answer 5. God always keeps His word.

Pray about It

Dear God, thank You that I can depend on You to keep Your word. I trust that You will always answer me when I call. Help me to trust Your plans for my life. Amen.

Day 3

Faith Fact

I can trust God to answer.

Faith Verse

Psalm 34:19 (NLT)

The righteous person faces many troubles, but the Lord comes to the rescue each time.

Question of the Day: When can you call on God?

Read about It

Read: Psalm 91:14–16

Phones didn't always let you put someone on hold so you could answer another phone call. Phones could only handle one call at a time. If you tried to call someone and they were already talking to someone else, you would hear a beeping sound called a busy signal. You had to hang up the phone and try to call back later. This could be a problem, especially if there was an emergency. Now, phones have call waiting and we can quickly switch from one call to another. This is better, but we still depend on the other person to answer.

Thankfully, God doesn't work like this. At any time, we can call on God. When we call on Him, He will answer and He will be with us. He's never too busy for us, and our problems are never too small or too big for Him. We can trust that He will always answer our call for help. It may not be in the way we think He should answer, but He will always answer. We can depend on Him.

Talk about It

Question 1. What does the Lord promise to do when we call on Him?

Answer 1. He promises to answer. (Psalm 91:15)

Question 2. Who does the Bible say the Lord will rescue and protect?

Answer 2. Those who love Him and those who trust in His name (Psalm 91:14)

Question 3. Have you ever tried to call someone, and they didn't answer? How did it make you feel?

Answer 3. Answers will vary.

Question 4. How do you think God feels when we call on Him during hard times?

Answer 4. Answers will vary.

Question 5. When can you call on God?

Answer 5. Answers will vary.

Pray about It

Dear God, thank You that I can call on You at any time. I know You are always there when I need You. Help me to trust You to answer. Amen.

Day 4

Faith Fact

I can trust God to answer.

Faith Verse

Psalm 34:19 (NLT)

The righteous person faces many troubles, but the Lord comes to the rescue each time.

Question of the Day: What should you do if you feel like God isn't answering?

Read about It

Read: Jeremiah 29:10–13

Have you ever been in your room and tried to get your mom or dad's attention? Instead of just getting up and going to them, you start yelling for them. You yell louder and louder, and begin to get frustrated that they're not answering. So, you finally get up and go to them, and that's when they answer you. They were there the whole time, and they heard you calling out to them. But, they wanted you to come closer so they could talk to you.

It can feel a little like this with God. When we're in the middle of something hard, it can seem like we're calling out to Him over and over, and He's not listening. But God is always there and is always willing to answer us. Sometimes, He wants us to come closer to Him so we can hear from Him. He wants us to spend time in His Word and in prayer. He wants us to take time in our day to be quiet and talk to Him. Sometimes, it's in those moments that He speaks to us and answers what we've been asking Him for.

Talk about It

Question 1. What kind of plans of God do these verses describe?

Answer 1. They are plans for good and not disaster—plans to give us a future and a hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)

Question 2. How do these verses describe those who want to find God?

Answer 2. Those who look for Him with their whole heart (wholeheartedly) (Jeremiah 29:13)

Question 3. How would you describe putting your whole heart into getting closer to God?

Answer 3. Answers will vary.

Question 4. When have you prayed a long time for something?

Answer 4. Answers will vary.

Question 5. What should you do if you feel like God isn't answering?

Answer 5. Spend time in His Word, pray, and take time to listen to what He might be saying. Answers may vary.

Pray about It

Dear God, thank You for always hearing me. Help me to draw closer to You in difficult times so I can hear Your voice speaking to me. Amen.