

Minor Characters, Bold Faith

SERIES COMMUNITY GUIDE

THRIVE LA CHURCH

June 2026

How to Use This Guide

Throughout Scripture, there are people who rarely receive the spotlight but whose lives demonstrate extraordinary faithfulness. This series explores prophets who were called to difficult assignments in difficult times. They each faced uncertainty, opposition, and suffering, yet they remained faithful to God.

Their stories remind us that bold faith is not about having all the answers or being fearless. Bold faith is trusting God enough to say yes when He calls, depend on Him when we are empty, keep our eyes fixed on His glory, and remain faithful regardless of the outcome.

Each week we will discuss the sermon, reflect on Scripture, and consider how God may be inviting us to practice bold faith in our own lives.

Watch the Sermon

In Person on Sundays at 10am: 2234 W Temple St, Los Angeles, CA 90026

Online Live on Sundays at 10am: thriveLA.online.church

Archived: thriveLAchurch.com/media

Gather Weekly

We have multiple Thrive Groups throughout Los Angeles and Online. We encourage our groups meeting in person to share a meal together.

Discussion

In your groups you will discuss the week's sermon and Bible readings with reflection/discussion questions designed to help you go deeper.

Join or Start a Group

Go to thriveLAchurch.com/thrivegroups or Text "Groups" to 323-709-0711 to be placed in a group and to learn more.

Week 1: Isaiah - Bold Calling

week of June 8th

Isaiah 6 records the prophet Isaiah's call to ministry. After seeing a vision of the Lord seated on His throne, Isaiah becomes aware of his own sinfulness and unworthiness. God graciously cleanses him, and when God asks, "Whom shall I send?", Isaiah responds, "Here am I. Send me."

Bold faith often begins the same way. God does not call perfect people. He calls people who have encountered His grace and are willing to say, "Here am I. Send me."

Opening Question:

What is something you said "yes" to that felt intimidating at first?

Bible Reading:

Isaiah 6:1-9

Discussion Questions:

- What stands out to you about Isaiah's encounter with God?
- Why do you think Isaiah becomes so aware of his own shortcomings in God's presence?
- Before God sends Isaiah, He first cleanses him. What does this teach us about the relationship between grace and calling?
- What fears or insecurities often keep people from saying yes to God?
- Isaiah responds, "Here am I. Send me." What do you think gave him the courage to say yes?
- Where might God be inviting you to take a step of faith right now?

Reflection:

1. Which part of Isaiah's story do you most identify with right now: seeing God more clearly, becoming aware of your need for grace, receiving God's healing, or responding to His calling?
2. Spend a few minutes talking to God about this individually... Journal, write a few thoughts on your phone, pray, doodle - whatever is helpful for you to spend time silently reflecting with God.

Prayer:

Break into pairs and share your reflection from above, and then spend time praying for one another.

Bonus: Text and check in with your prayer buddy during the week!

Week 2: Jeremiah - Bold Dependency

week of June 15th

Jeremiah led God's people during one of the darkest periods in Israel's history. Again and again, God's people searched for life, security, and satisfaction in places that could never truly provide it. Jeremiah described these substitutes as "broken cisterns" that could hold no water.

Yet Jeremiah's message was not only judgment. He also proclaimed God's promise of a new covenant - a future where God would write His law upon human hearts with the Holy Spirit, that comes through Jesus.

Bold faith recognizes the emptiness of false sources of life and learns to depend on God alone.

Opening Question:

What is your comfort TV show that you can watch over and over?

Bible Reading:

Jeremiah 3:2:13; 31:31-34

Discussion Questions:

- What do you think Jeremiah means by "broken cisterns"?
- What do you run to when you're stressed or wanting a sense of control?
- What does the promise of the new covenant reveal about God's character?
- What helps you connect with God? (Living water)
- Where have you experienced God's faithfulness?

Practice:

Have everyone write down what they trust in other than God for security or comfort, and fold it up so no one else sees. (Don't open these.) Then collect all of them in a hat, put it at the center of the group, and have someone pray for the group... Pray that God would take these false securities, and help the group repent and turn to Jesus as the Living Water, the source of Life.

Prayer

Pray as a group (see above) and for prayer requests.

Week 3: Ezekiel - Bold Vision

week of June 22nd

Ezekiel's ministry began with a breathtaking vision of God's glory. Living among exiles who believed God had abandoned them, Ezekiel discovered that God's presence could not be confined to a temple, a city, or a circumstance.

After seeing God's glory, Ezekiel was commissioned as a watchman - a person responsible for faithfully delivering God's message to others.

Bold faith begins by seeing God clearly and then faithfully bearing witness to what we have seen.

Opening Question:

What is something you had an opinion about, but that opinion changed?

Bible Reading:

Ezekiel 1:25-28; 3:16-21

Discussion Questions:

- What do you learn about God from Ezekiel's vision?
- Where have you seen God's glory recently? (beauty, people, creation, moments of gratitude, etc.)
- Why do you think seeing God's glory comes before Ezekiel's calling as a watchman?
- What responsibilities come with knowing and following God?
- What might it mean to be a watchman in today's world?
- How does a bigger vision of God change the way we live?

Practice:

Take a walk this week, without headphones, and pay attention to what's around you. Ask, "God, where are you revealing your glory today?" Afterwards, write down 3 things that helped you notice God's presence with you.

Prayer:

Ask God to expand your vision of Him and help you faithfully represent Him to others. Pray in smaller groups.

Week 4: Daniel - Bold Presence

week of June 29th

Throughout the book of Daniel, we find God's people living in a culture that does not share their beliefs, values, or allegiance to God. Faced with pressure to conform, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are given a choice: bow to the king's golden image or face the fiery furnace.

Their response reveals a remarkable faith. They believe God is able to rescue them, and they trust that He can intervene. Yet their faith is not dependent on receiving the outcome they want. "Even if He does not," they declare, they will remain faithful to God. Bold faith is not confidence that everything will work out the way we hope; it is confidence in God's character regardless of the outcome.

This week invites us to consider what it means to trust God not only when He delivers us from difficulty, but also when we find ourselves facing it.

Opening Question:

What are you looking forward to this summer?

Bible Reading:

Daniels 3:16-18

Discussion Questions:

- What stands out to you about the response of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel's friends)?
- What do you think the words, "But even if He does not..." reveal about their understanding of God?
- How is trusting God different from trusting that God will give us the outcome we want?
- Can you think of a situation in your life where you've had to trust God despite uncertainty, disappointment, or unanswered questions?
- What helped, or challenged, your faith in that season?

Practice:

We're going to write our own prayers of surrender! Where in your life right now do you need the courage to say, "God, I trust You—even if things don't turn out the way I hope"? Write a simple prayer using Daniel's pattern:

God, I believe You can...

God, I trust You will...

But even if You don't...

I will still trust You.

If there's time, share with the group OR break into pairs and share with a partner, and then pray together.

Encourage everyone to reflect on their prayers this week!

Prayer

Pray your prayer of surrender with a partner.