



# *IRRESISTIBLE FAITH*

## **WEEK ONE- BEING OKAY WITH NOT BEING OKAY**

### **LEADER NOTES**

Chapter one introduces us to the idea of being okay with not being okay. When we first begin our journey as a Christ-follower we are full of excitement and we have this idea that life will somehow be easier because we have Jesus in it. As the years go on, we are confronted with the reality that we are constantly missing the mark and a feeling of failure can overtake us. Thankfully we are given the reassurance that even the prophets struggled with flaws and failures. Sauls reminds us this by saying “Their failings bring me almost as much comfort as the promises of God, because if there is hope for busted-up sinners like them, then there is also hope for a busted-up sinner like me.” Throughout this chapter we are reminded that our spiritual life occurs in seasons. Just as a fruit tree has seasons of plenty and seasons of few, so do we in our spiritual lives. We must always remember though that God is more prone to forgive than we are prone to sin. Grace always abounds.



# "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!"

## ICE BREAKER

Share a time in your life when you had to be okay with not being okay.

## DISCUSSION STARTER

What impacted you most from this Sunday's message?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Can you relate to Sauls' description of when he first became a Christian and how he feels 29 years later (on pages 3-4)? He writes, "A far cry from the irresistible faith I once thought would describe my life, I sometimes feel like I am more part of the problem than I am part of the solution. Do you ever feel the same about your own life? Are we hopeless?" How would you respond to Sauls' questions?



2. Sauls takes encouragement from knowing that even the greatest heroes of faith, including Isaiah, Paul, Rahab, and Martha, are flawed even when at their best. Which biblical figure can you relate to in that regard?

3. Sauls believes, as he states on page 7-8, that the world will notice the light in us when we realize not that we are okay, but that we are not okay; not that we are strong and capable, but frail and incapable and weak. He writes, "It is essential to begin our journey together with this truth in our minds and hearts- that the first step in becoming like Jesus is acknowledging how unlike Jesus we are and knowing that he loves us just the same." How is this different from what the church often projects to the world? How can we change it?

4. 2 Corinthians 5:17 states, "For if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has gone and the new has come." How has this process of spiritual transformation manifested in your life? Sudden or gradual? Discouraging or encouraging?

5. Sauls reflects on our role in our journey to become more like Christ. He writes, "We ask, 'What are we to do?' And we find that we participate in becoming *like* Jesus as we invest ourselves in being *with* Jesus." What ways have you found meaningful in your life to draw near to Jesus and be with him? How has it changed you?"



## **CLOSING PRAYER**

God meet us in the place we are at today, be it a time of plenty or a time of few. Help us Lord to find the peace in knowing that it is okay to not be okay. Renew in us a desire to become closer to you, to leave behind the things that weigh us down. For we know that anyone in Christ is a new creation. The old has gone and the new has come. Thank you for this promise. Amen

**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK- CHAPTER 3 'SAVORING  
THE PRECIOUS CHRIST'**