

THIS WEEKS MESSAGE

October 6 & 7'07
"Our Amazing Race" Series
This Week's Message: "Risky Faith"
Pastor Mike Penninga

2 Kings 4:1-7, Luke 7:36-48



When was the last time you took a risk for Jesus? I mean something that you could've totally failed at and made a fool out of yourself? To be honest, it's probably been a long time when I did something that fit that category. So what is keeping us from taking more risks for Jesus? How can we address our fears and lack of faith in such a way that we become the kind of risk-taking, faith-stretching followers He's looking for? Today, we will look at two women in scripture who set aside their fears and embraced their faith in such a way that their lives were dramatically changed. And you will be challenged to step out of your comfort zone to experience what risky faith is all about!

4 Practical Response Opportunities

1. Alive, Mentors & Life Group leaders www.alivebc.com
2. ReClaim – October 13, 1-4pm Downtown at Habitat www.willowparkchurch.com
3. Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes – Introduce them to your work or school www.spamaritanspurse.ca
4. Will you take 3 Risks for Jesus this week?

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Getting It Started:

- Are you a person who naturally takes risks, or do you like to play it safe?
- Tell about a time where you took a risk. It could've been in your personal life, business life, spiritual life. What happened? Were you glad you took that risk?
- How would you define what it means to live a "risky faith"?
- What are some of the reasons people don't live that way?
- What place does "fear" and "lack of faith" play out in your life?
- Do you agree with the idea that we become less of a risk taker as we grow older? If so, what does that say about WPC in its 60th year? How do we counter that tendency?
- What are some of the benefits of living a "risky-faith"?

Scripture:

- Looking at scripture, who do you naturally think of when it comes to "Risky Faith"?
- One of the best ways to counter fear is through an increase in faith. Look up the following words spoken by Jesus. What is God trying to teach us about faith?
- Matthew 9:27-29 "According to your faith it will be done to you"
- Matthew 14:53-58 "Didn't do many miracles there because of their lack of faith"
- Matthew 15:21-28 "You have great faith. Your request is granted."
- Matthew 17:14-21 " Faith can move mountains."
- John 14:12 "Anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing."
- Reread Hebrews 11, the hall of faith, and talk about how these individuals got to experience great works of God because they believed He could actually do it.
- What does Paul's charge to Timothy mean to us in the area of risk-taking? Read 2 Timothy 1:6-12
- Does Paul's perspective on life in Philippians 1:20-21 give you an encouragement to live a bold faith? Explain.

Application:

- What type of risk might God be calling us as a small group to move out in? Risk of service, risk of invitation, risk of conversation, risk of birthing a new group?
- Consider serving as a small group at the October 13th ReClaim event in downtown Kelowna.
- Look at whether your group could challenge other groups to pack as many Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes as possible. Or, consider introducing the concept to your workplace www.spamaritanspurse.ca
- Next time someone invites you to do something that is out of your comfort zone, say yes! Even if it scares you. Maybe God wants to use this risk as a faith stretching experience