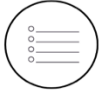




SPRING WEEK 5 | April 25-26, 2026



## LEADER NOTES

**Leader Reminder:** Success this week is hearing from everyone and keeping God's Word at the center.

**Essentials Training Excerpt:** *From Discussion to Obedience*

Great discussions don't automatically lead to growth - **obedience does.**

- As you lead this week, help your group move from talking about faith to living it out by identifying one clear, practical step each person can take this week.
- Avoid vague responses like "I should trust God more," and gently guide toward specifics: **What would that look like?**

Remember, transformation doesn't usually come through big leaps, but through **small, consistent steps** of obedience over time.



## UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◇ **2026 Men's Conference** – Join us for the North Coast Men's Conference at the Vista Campus on Friday, June 19 and Saturday, June 20, 2026, for a weekend designed to help men recharge and refocus on God's call, featuring three sessions team-taught by Pastor Chris Brown and guest speaker Pastor Larry Acosta, along with worship, food, events. Bring your friends, neighbors, son, or Life Group, and choose to stay overnight with onsite camping for campers or tents. Go to [Northcoastchurch.com](http://Northcoastchurch.com) or the North Coast app to register.
- ◇ **Ready to Make an Impact?** – Each Life Group quarter we invite all of our Life Groups to make an impact through serving together with one of our Local Impact partners. Has your Life Group picked an Impact Project yet? From packing toiletry kits and sack lunches to hosting bingo nights at the senior center, building beautification, meal delivery and so much more, the North Coast Impact website has hundreds of service opportunities in your area! Learn more in the North Coast Church app or at [northcoastchurch.com](http://northcoastchurch.com)

# LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE

April 25 -26, 2026

## WARM UP



1. This weekend, Larry talked about the trap of treating faith like a "recipe." Is there a family recipe or a restaurant meal you swear by, something you think tastes better than anything else? What is it?
2. Sometimes we want to look for God to work the same way every time because it worked the first time. Do you have any superstitious routines you've picked up because they worked once? Like an athlete wearing "lucky" socks before a game?
3. Which of Larry's "Lessons to Take Home" did you feel like you needed the most?

## KNOW IT



1. Jesus called the disciples' faith "little" (oligopistos in the Greek), referring to the quality, not the quantity, meaning theirs was easily shaken and inconsistent. After hearing this message, do you better understand what Jesus was correcting? What stands out to you about the difference between weak or inconsistent faith and small but genuine trust in God?
  - **Additional Thought:** It's easy to slip into thinking faith is just about trying harder. Having more faith isn't about increasing our effort or intensity.
  - **Additional Questions:** What do you think makes faith "inconsistent" or easily shaken?
  - **Additional Scripture:** Hebrews 11:1 - *Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*

2. Larry pointed out that no two relationships are alike, whereas religion is one size fits all. Hebrews 11 is full of people who each had a different relationship with God and different faith "recipes," but they each acted by faith. As you read their stories, what do you notice about their similarities and differences?

- **Conversational Caution:** Be ready to refocus the conversation if your group begins to overgeneralize, compare, or focus on the details of each character.
- **Group Dynamic Tip:** If engagement is low, assign roles. This distributes participation and keeps energy up.
- **Additional Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 - *There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.*

a. Which example of faith resonates the most with you right now, and why?

## SHARE IT



1. God has wired each of us uniquely, and no two relationships with Him are exactly the same. What's something unique about your relationship with God? As you think about different ways people relate to God, what personally feels most natural and life-giving in your walk with Him?

- **Additional Questions:** When do you feel most connected to God? What environments or moments help you notice God more?
- **Additional Thought:** Here's a helpful outline of ways people connect and relate with God:  
Thinking - scripture, study, learning  
Feeling - worship, prayer, reflection  
Doing - serving, action, helping others  
Being - silence, solitude, rest, presence

2. As much as God works in new and different ways, we tend to be creatures of habit who look for repeating patterns. Have you ever had an experience where God worked in your life, and you then found yourself trying to recreate it, only to realize it didn't happen the same way again?

- **Additional Thought:** The goal is not to simply recreate experiences and results but to deepen our trust in Him over methods.
- **Conversational Caution:** Disappointment with God could surface in this part of the discussion. Allow space for your group to share it by acknowledging the experience and embracing the tension.
- **Additional Questions:** What makes something feel like it "worked" spiritually?
- **Additional Scripture:** Isaiah 43:18-19 - *Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*

## LIVE IT



1. Larry reminded us that God isn't a power we harness; He's a Lord we serve. Is there an area in your life where God is calling you to rest in Him and trust His goodness, rather than pushing for a specific outcome?

- **Conversational Caution:** Don't let the conversation drift into "just relax and trust God." Resting in Him is not doing nothing, it's actively trusting God instead of forcing results.
- **Additional Questions:** What outcome are you most tempted to push for right now?
- **Additional Scripture:** Psalm 37:3-6 - *Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun.*

2. How can you move from simply understanding faith to actually living it out this week?

- **Additional Thought:** For most, the struggle isn't with knowing what's right. It's with taking an actual step to act on what's right. Remember, faith grows when it's practiced, not just understood.
- **Additional Questions:** What usually gets in your way of acting on what you know? Is there anything you already know God is asking you to do?
- **Additional Scripture:** Luke 6:46 - *Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?*  
James 1:22 - *Do not merely listen to the word... Do what it says.*



## When The Recipe Doesn't Work

### The passage:

Matthew 17:14-20/ Mark 9:22-24/ Matthew 14:29-31 & Matthew 16:8

### 4 life lessons to take home:

1. Never turn your **RELATIONSHIP** *with* God into a **RELIGION** *for* God.

Relationship: **NO TWO ARE EVER ALIKE**

Religion: **ONE SIZE FITS ALL**

2. God **SELDOM** uses the same game plan **TWICE**.

Joshua 3:1-17 / 1 Samuel 4:1-11 / Mark 9:29

3. God isn't a **POWER** we harness; He's a Lord we **SERVE**.

Acts 3:1-10 & 4:22/ Luke 10:17-20

4. There are three basic answers to our mustard seed prayers:

1. **YES**

2. **NOT YET - KEEP PRAYING**

Luke 11:5-13 & Luke 18:1-8

3. **NO**

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 / Matthew 26:39-44