



Risk: Reward | March 22, 2017

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

When it comes to risk, we often measure it against reward. What if we decided to trust God without any promise of reward? What would that require of our faith? How might that grow your faith?

Key Verse

2 Timothy 1:7 (NLT)

God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.

Discussion

In the famous book *Pilgrim's Progress*, author John Bunyan tells a story of a man that knocks at the gates of heaven only to hear a loud dog barking behind the gates that scared him off. We typically only push through fear when we feel the reward is big enough. What if we are missing out on something so great...a reward we can't measure or understand?

1. Can you think of an example of a time when you missed out on something because you were afraid to take a risk?
2. Can you think of a time when you risked and benefited?

Joshy Chacko was a successful businessman who left all of that behind because he saw an 8 year old boy struggling. He admits to not taking the time to measure the risk or the reward, but only acting on what he felt God had asked him to do. As a result he now runs an organization called Empart, Inc that impacts the lives of 6.5 million NEW people per week.

3. Have you had one of these moments where you felt God was calling you to something risky? Explain.
4. Have you ever felt like the reward or effort to do something huge was too great and scary? Explain.

Joshy believes that success in God is measured by the level of surrender we have to Him not the achievements or reward we gain. We may be missing something significant and our faith may be stunted by always needing the reward to outweigh the risk before acting. Sometimes the risk, the fear, the worry is an indicator that we might be on the right track because engaging in these spaces causes us to surrender.

5. What things cause you the most anxiety, fear, worry?
6. Share of a time when you "surrendered." What did it feel like? What did you experience?

What's Next?

Carrie Fisher was on to something when she said, "Stay afraid, but do it anyway. What is important is the actions that follow. You don't have to wait to be confident. Just do it and eventually confidence will follow."

Being willing to risk or give up everything may be the key to gaining more than we could ever imagine. As you go through the week, act on something that feels risky. Don't run from it. Instead give up control and trust God. Remember, God has not created you with a spirit of fear!