Hope City

Discussion Guide

October 11, 2026

I've Seen Too Much To Expect Too Little

Growth Chart: Week 2

Pastor Daniel Groves

Main Idea

Spiritual growth doesn't happen accidentally. Hebrews 6:1 challenges believers to move beyond the basics of faith and grow toward spiritual maturity. One indication of that maturity is how our expectations of God grow as we experience His faithfulness. In Psalm 5:3, David demonstrates this kind of faith by bringing his requests before God and waiting expectantly. Like the Israelites preparing to enter the Promised Land, we have a history of God's provision, protection, and faithfulness to draw upon. The question is whether we will allow what God has already done to strengthen our trust in what He can do next.

Anchor Verse: *"So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don't need to start again with the fundamental importance of repenting from evil deeds and placing our faith in God."* (Hebrews 6:1, NLT).

Read: Psalm 5:3

1. WE CAN'T LET WHAT WE SEE BECOME BIGGER THAN WHAT GOD SAID

The twelve spies saw the same land, obstacles, and evidence of God's promise, yet they responded dramatically differently. While ten let fear overshadow God's Word, Caleb showed that genuine faith doesn't ignore reality but refuses to let circumstances have the final word.

Scripture: Numbers 13:27–28, 30–31, 33

Discussion: What circumstances in your life currently seem bigger than God's promises, and how are those circumstances influencing your thoughts, decisions, or prayers? The spies described themselves as grasshoppers compared to the giants. How has your view of yourself or your abilities limited your willingness to trust God or take a step of faith?

2. WE HAVE TO GROW OUR EXPECTATIONS TO MATCH THE GOD WE SERVE

While fear caused the Israelites to consider returning to Egypt, Joshua and Caleb demonstrated a different attitude by placing their confidence in God's power and presence. Growing expectations aren't simply optimistic thoughts; they produce obedient action as we prepare, pray, serve, and faithfully steward what God has already entrusted to us.

Scripture: Numbers 14:3, 7–9, 24

Discussion: The Israelites considered returning to Egypt because moving forward required faith. What familiar attitudes, habits, or situations have you been tempted to return to when following God becomes difficult or uncertain? Pastor Daniel said, "Expectation produces preparation." What are you believing God for, and how could your actions today better reflect your trust in Him?

*BONUS POINT

GENEROSITY REMINDER

Generosity is a sign of spiritual maturity, reflecting our gratitude for God's goodness and our trust in His provision. Just as a farmer plants seeds in faith, we give willingly and cheerfully, trusting God with what we have and believing He will provide what we need.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

Discussion: What is one area of your life where God is challenging you to move from holding on to what you have to trusting Him through generosity, and what practical step can you take this week?

"FEAR WILL ROMANTICIZE WHAT GOD DELIVERED YOU FROM"

SUMMARY

Spiritual maturity isn't measured simply by how long we've walked with God, but by how much we've learned to trust Him. The Israelites had witnessed extraordinary miracles, yet many struggled to believe God when they encountered new obstacles. Joshua and Caleb remind us that our confidence should rest not in our abilities or circumstances, but in God's character and faithfulness. Hebrews 13:8 reminds us that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. As we remember what God has already done, we can move forward with greater faith, stronger expectations, and a willingness to obey Him even when the outcome is uncertain.

CALL TO ACTION

Remeber God's Faithfulness: Write down three specific ways God has demonstrated His faithfulness in your life. Spend time thanking Him for those moments and consider how remembering them can strengthen your faith in a challenge you're facing today.

TReplace Fear With God's Word: Identify one fear or negative assumption that has been influencing your decisions. Find a Scripture that speaks to God's character or promises, and intentionally use that truth to guide your thoughts and prayers throughout the week.

Take One Step of Expectant Faith: Choose one area where you've been praying for God to move. Take one practical step this week that reflects your trust in Him, whether it's initiating a conversation, serving someone, preparing for an opportunity, or moving forward with something you've been postponing.

GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

You've Got The Evidence

Instructions:

Invite each participant to imagine they are presenting evidence in a courtroom to prove that someone has been faithful to them.

Ask everyone to think of a person who has consistently shown up for them, kept their word, or helped them through something difficult.

Have participants briefly share who that person is and one experience that demonstrated their faithfulness.

Connection to the Sermon:

Just as past experiences shape our expectations of people, remembering God's faithfulness should influence how we trust Him with what lies ahead. The Israelites had plenty of evidence of God's faithfulness, but not everyone allowed that evidence to shape their expectations.

Transition Question: If our experiences with faithful people help us trust them more, why do you think we sometimes struggle to trust God despite the ways He's already been faithful to us?