

# **UNSHAKEABLE FAITH**

## **BROAD OVERVIEW**

### **PREPARING FOR SUNDAY**

- Sunday afternoon, begin spiritually preparing by prayerfully working through *Unshakeable* throughout the week; prepare to teach using the *Teacher Preparation Guide*.
- Prepare and collect any resources you will use Sunday morning.

### **SUNDAY MORNING | READY THE ROOM**

- Be sure your class leadership team is ready to receive members and guests by at least 9:50am.
- Use nametags for members and guests and ensure everyone gets a copy of the *Unshakeable Personal Journal*.
- Prominently display the learning goal before anyone arrives.

## **THE GROUPLIFE HOUR**

1. **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS** (< 5 MINUTES)
2. **DAILY READING HIGHLIGHTS & PRAYER** (10-15 MINUTES)
3. **READY THE LEARNERS** (<10 MINUTES)
4. **TEACH & APPLY THE LESSON** (25-30 MINUTES)
5. **GUIDE MEMBERS TO RESPOND** (5 MINUTES)
6. **FINAL REMINDERS & DISMISS CLASS** (3 MINUTES)

### **PREPARING FOR NEXT SUNDAY**

- See the attached *Teacher Preparation Guide*.

### **PREPARING FOR SUNDAY**

#### **1. PREPARE SPIRITUALLY & PREPARE TO TEACH:**

- Begin working through the *Teacher Preparation Guide* starting Sunday afternoon or very early in the week. You can find it on the last page of this document. You can also access this (and other) teacher resources at [fcbryan.org/unshakeable](http://fcbryan.org/unshakeable).
- Prepare yourself spiritually by prayerfully working through the *Unshakeable Daily Readings* throughout the week.
- Teachers are always free to narrow the scope of the lesson by zeroing in on a single truth in the chapter they prayerfully believe best meets the needs of the class. Dig into the scriptures around that truth in *Unshakeable*, or supplement it with other passages the Lord draws you to in your preparation.

#### **2. PREPARE RESOURCES:**

- Ready a cleaned white board with white board markers or a large presentation sheet with permanent markers.
- Make a plan for displaying the learning goal on white board, presentation sheet, powerpoint slide, or handout.
- Have a method nailed down for collecting class prayer requests and distributing them to the class later that day.
- **Redraw and label the diagram of the bedrock and 5 foundation pillars from last week on the whiteboard or powerpoint slide.**

# **SUNDAY MORNING**

## **READY THE ROOM**

- Be sure your class leadership team is ready to receive members and guests by at least 9:50am. Though members are in the habit of showing up later, guests typically arrive early so as not to draw attention to themselves.
- Warm the environment of the room with music
- Prominently display the learning goal before anyone arrives:

**FAITH IS MORE THAN JUST BELIEVING FACTS ABOUT GOD,  
FAITH IS ACTING UPON THOSE BELIEFS BY  
SURRENDERING YOUR WHOLE SELF TO OUR TRUSTWORTHY GOD.**

- Use nametags for members and guests. Be ready to gather information from class guests using Guest Information Cards or TouchPoint checkin.
- Ensure guests get a copy of the *Unshakeable Personal Journal* when they first arrive. This will give guests something to look at while waiting for members to arrive.
- Engage guests in warm conversation. Introduce them to others in the class and engage them in conversation if it appears welcome.

## **THE GROUPLIFE HOUR**

1. **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS (< 5 MINUTES)**. There's a lot to cover. Select a few announcements that are most time sensitive or important. Leave the remaining announcements to class communications during the week.
2. **DAILY READING HIGHLIGHTS & PRAYER (10-15 MINUTES)**
  - a. **VARY THE WAY YOU PAIR YOUR GROUPINGS FROM PREVIOUS WEEKS.** You can group people in triads, by proximity, gender groups,

care groups, the whole group, etc. Try not to do the same thing every week – variety can help some learners be more engaged.

- b. **SHARE INSIGHTS.** Instruct your class: “Pair up with a few people around you. Browse through this week’s reading in your Personal Journal looking for anything you may have underlined or highlighted. Share something that stood out to you from the Daily Readings this week in your Unshakeable Personal Journal.”
- c. **SHARE PRAYER REQUESTS.** Share how the group can be praying **for you**. In the interest of time, arrange for prayers **for others** to be collected and shared with the entire class through email.
- d. **REPORT INSIGHTS TO CLASS.** Ask someone from a few groups to share with the class something from the Daily Readings that was shared in their group.
- e. **UNSHAKEABLE REMINDERS:** Encourage the class that in addition to GroupLife, to read the Daily Readings and attend our Worship Service every week. Urge them to bring their *Personal Journal* with them each week. Encourage them to “just read today’s reading” if they fall behind, and leave any catchup work to Day 6, if desired. Encourage them to not get bogged down on being perfectly consistent; Satan will surely use that against them.

### 3. **READY THE LEARNERS (<10 MINUTES)**

**Engage the class member’s HEART & MIND.** Debate, illustrate, brainstorm, share a surprising/humorous/controversial quote or question, or tell a personal story you will use to begin your lesson. Something that activates the mind or heart readies the member for learning better than jumping into facts.

- a. **Provoking Thought:** Can faith be authentic if it is not acted upon? Why or why not?

Have an open discussion about the class’s answer to this question. [Pro tip: Remember, answers shouldn’t be corrected at this point. This is to get people thinking, and invested in the lesson. A disagreement or different points of view shared between class members will invest them in the lesson.]

- b. **Say,** Today, we're going to be looking at what the Bible says about faith. Not saving faith, but continuing faith as a Christian – what it is and isn't. And why it's critical for living the Christian life.
- c. **PRAY:** Pause to pray, leading your class to be open hearted and attentive to God's truth, how it applies to our lives, and how He wants us to respond. Ask for wisdom and understanding that doesn't puff us up with pride. Ask for correction where there is error or misunderstanding. Ask for what we learn today to compel us to more deeply love God and all people with whom we come in contact.

#### 4. **TEACH & APPLY THE LESSON** (25-30 MINUTES)

**Engage the class member's HEART, MIND, & HANDS.** As you teach the facts of the lesson, you are teaching the mind, and answering the question, "What is true?". We must also teach the heart, answering the question, "How should I value this truth?". Finally, we must give attention to the hands, answering the question, "What must I do with this truth that I now value?"

**Review:** Do you remember what we talked about last week? We discuss 5 pillars about God that show us why He is worthy of our absolute trust and total surrender. Do you remember them? Let's try and list them (Write them on the board as they say them, better yet, draw them as pillars):

God speaks

God knows

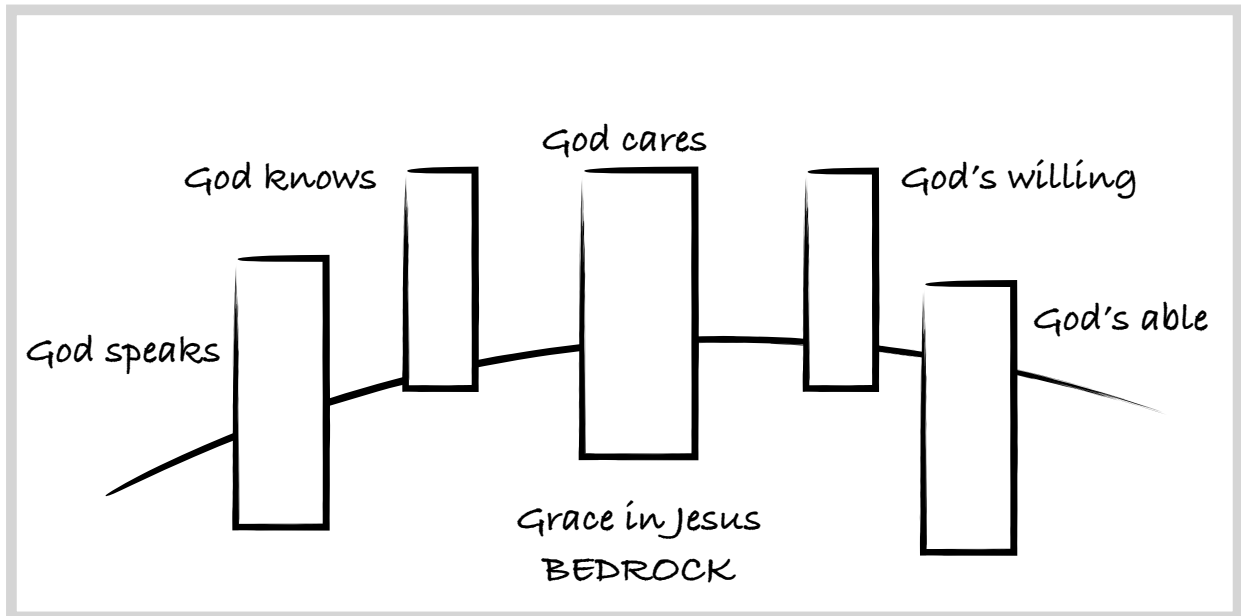
God cares

God's willing

God's able

Now, for Unshakeable, we call these foundation pillars. Before the advent of more advanced engineering, the foundation is laid upon the bedrock. Does anyone remember what the bedrock layer is? (Write on the white board the correct answer, or label the bedrock layer underneath the pillars)

Grace in Jesus



- a. **Say**, turn to page 94 in your Unshakeable Personal Journal. Have someone volunteer to read the quote in the callout box.

"ALL THAT IS TRUE ABOUT GOD FROM FOUNDATION DOWN TO BEDROCK DOES NO ONE ANY GOOD IF THEY WILL NOT RECEIVE IT AND LIVE BY IT."

Use the story on page 95, or the lottery illustration starting on page 109 (or use a personal story from your own life) to illustrate the face that our beliefs benefit us only when they are acted upon in faith.

- b. **Say**, practically speaking, what builds our confidence to act upon what we believe? There is no substitute for the Bible in building our faith. Why? Because it is the only book that is living and active and that reads you! The Bible is God's written self-revelation to us. When we renew our mind with it, we replace our uninformed thoughts and selfish motives with His divine wisdom and His kingdom motivations.

- There are two suggestions *Unshakeable* makes for someone who has yet to read through the Bible. The first, is to read the New Testament 3 times before tackling the Old. What is the author's rationale for this?

Is there any validity to that? If a person chose **not** to follow that advice, but instead decided to read from Genesis straight through to Revelation, what kind of support would be needed along the way so they would be reading the Old Testament through the lenses of the New? [Tip: this is a good time for people in the class to share resources they have found helpful in their own reading. *The Bible Recap* and *Bible Project* are two examples of resources that provide needed commentary on all of Scripture so it is rightly understood through the lens of Jesus].

- The 2nd suggestion is to remember that reading the Bible is not the goal. Knowing and “faithing” God is the goal, not only for salvation, but for living every aspect of the kingdom-first life to which we are called.

- c. **Faith is humble.** Anytime we determine to do something good, like living in total obedience because of our faith in Him, we must consider HOW we’re going to go about that. Let’s brainstorm some real life examples of how you can do the right thing in the wrong way (you should have a few examples of your own ready):

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Now, let’s brainstorm some ways it would NOT be good to pursue God’s will for our lives:

- relying on our own strength
- relying on our own wisdom
- doing things FOR God instead of WITH God
- doing good to impress or deceive others
- doing the right thing without regard to how people are treated
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**Ask,** is God glorified when we do the right thing in ANY wrong way?

**Read.** Have a volunteer read the callout box on page 105.

“GOD WILL NOT SUPPORT OUR PRIDEFUL EFFORTS TO  
KEEP HIM SHUT OUT OF OUR SANCTIFICATION.”

**Summarize.** Humility keeps us abiding in Christ so His Spirit within us can produce the fruit of active faith.

- d. **Faith and action.** This chapter looks at faith from a few different perspectives, but foundational to all of them is the connection between belief and action. Understanding the relationship and the distinctions between belief and action can be critical for saving faith, as well as living the unshakeable kingdom-first life. Consider the following bible verse.

John 3:36 “The one who believes in the Son has eternal life; but the one who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.”

The context of this verse suggests that “believes” and “obey” are used interchangeably. Look at the verse by removing one word:

John 3:36 “The one who believes in the Son has eternal life; but the one who does not \_\_\_\_\_ the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.”

See what I mean? The construction of the sentence suggests a simple formula: someone believes and they have eternal life. Conversely, someone doesn't believe and they will not have eternal life. But it doesn't say that. It says, the “one who does not OBEY” the Son will not see life.

Have someone read the first full paragraph on Page 111 for perspective on the relationship between belief and obedience.

“Disobedience is a hindrance that keeps us out of fellowship with God, and thus unplugs us from the abiding life and its resulting kingdom fruit... Disobedient faith isn't possible. Disobedience takes what is essential to faith and strips it out of faith, leaving behind something less than faith. Like the man on the ice, you may agree that the ice will hold, but not enough to walk upon it.” Page 115.



## 5. GUIDE MEMBERS TO RESPOND (5-10 minutes)

**Engage the class member's WORSHIP** ("Knowing what I must do with this truth I now value, how will I respond to the Lord?")

- a. **Read from 115-16:** "Satan obscures what we think of obedience. Often we think of it lightly. After all, a little disobedience here and there doesn't seem to hurt me or anyone else. This sentiment finds root in the heart of someone gauging their obedience against how happy it may or may not make them in the moment. If I don't want to? No problem, I just won't. Because I don't feel like it right now. I'm tired. That would embarrass me, or that would be too hard. I'd have to rearrange my schedule. I'm already obeying God in other ways. I'd have to give up too much. When you've reduced disobedience to a meaningless decision, you've missed the main thing: the relationship."
- b. **Ask** the group to close their eyes and lead them in a brief prayer asking God to reveal how He wants them to respond this week. Ask them to rank the following areas of growth:
  - 1) I need to address how I'm renewing my mind with the Bible
  - 2) I need go about obeying with humility and dependance
  - 3) I need to stop minimizing and remove areas of disobedience
  - 4) I need to consider what I REALLY believe about God and His best for me.
- c. Now, have them write down a response to God based on your daily reading and today's GroupLife lesson on Page 120 in their Personal Journal.

## ANCHORING RESPONSES TO THE GOSPEL

**Gospel encouragement:** This does not need to be explicitly stated (though there may be times you elect to), but as you guide members to respond to these lessons, you may need to in one way or another remind the class that God never calls us to live “for” Him, apart from Him. When we abide in Christ by walking in the Spirit, He enables us to live far above what our self-righteousness observance of rules can accomplish. God is able to produce righteousness in us that brings Him glory when we walk by faith.

### What does a gospel-centered response look like?

- 1) Pray to God about the response He wants you to make.
- 2) Confess that you’re unable to do this apart from Him.
- 3) Confess that since you have been set free from the power of sin, it no longer has power over you.
- 4) Ask for God’s supernatural help.
- 5) Walk in obedience with unbroken prayer and dependance on God.
- 6) If you slip, that indicates you have slipped back into self-reliance. Enter into God’s presence to receive grace and mercy, knowing you are welcome there based on the work of Jesus for you.
- 7) Begin again with dependance on God and confidence that He is eager to cleanse, restore, and abide with you as you begin again.

## 6. FINAL REMINDERS & DISMISS CLASS (3 MINUTES)

- a. **Prayer Exercise.** You may voice a heart-felt, surrendering prayer to close. Or ask a member that walk with Jesus to. Better yet, lead the class through a prayer prompt related to the lesson. Prompt them so THEY are praying, rather than listening to someone pray.

- b. Encourage the group, again, to utilize their *Personal Journal* throughout the week and to bring it with them weekly.
- c. Remind them of any opportunities to connect outside of class planned by the class or provided by the church.

# UNSHAKEABLE

## Teacher Preparation Guide

Teaching directly from the UNSHAKEABLE Personal Journal is **not** advised.  
Use this Preparation Guide to develop your own Custom Teaching Plan.  
All teacher resources online at [FBCBRYAN.ORG/UNSHAKEABLE](http://FBCBRYAN.ORG/UNSHAKEABLE)

### 1. Sunday afternoon, or very early in the week

1. Pray the Holy Spirit will guide your preparation without any hindrance.
2. Quickly read through all of this Week's Daily Readings in one sitting.
3. With a highlighter, mark the key Scripture passages in this Week's Lesson.

### 2. Monday - Friday

1. Every day, quickly re-read the highlighted Scripture passages.
2. Read through one Daily Reading per day, prayerfully working through it and completing the questions.
3. Throughout your preparation, make notes of any supporting scriptures, truths, illustrations, or questions the Lord brings to mind.

### 3. On or before Wednesday

1. Prayerfully read through this Week's Suggested Teaching Plan.

### 4. By Saturday

1. Skim all of this week's Daily Readings and Suggested Teaching Plan for any notes you have taken throughout the week.
2. Pray for the Holy Spirit's directing as you narrow your focus and finalize your preparation. You do not have to re-teach all the content of the Daily Readings; zero in on specific content or themes as He leads.
3. Use the Custom Teaching Plan document to develop a teaching plan for Sunday morning GroupLife based on how the Lord has led your devotional and preparation time.