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PRAYER

LORD God, please help us to see that you laid your life down for us so that we should live our lives for others. As we serve and love others, may we bring you glory! In Jesus' name. Amen.

WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

What energises you more: being in a crowd or being on your own? How does it energise you?

NOTES

WORD

³² And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— ³³ who through faith, conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. ³⁹ And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

[Hebrews 11:32-40](#) (ESV)

GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale of 1-10 (1 = not at all, 10 = absolutely reliable), how would you rate your ability to keep promises that you make?
2. Can you think of a time that you almost gave up on a promise that was made to you? Did it come through? How did you respond?
3. There are names listed in verse 32 that are mentioned as faithful, yet there are names that are also left off this list. Do you find it easy to be faithful and consistent to do what you need to do, even if no one else sees you or mentions your name?
4. Gideon was cowardly, Barak retracted from his post of leadership and gave the leadership to Deborah (who is not mentioned here), Samson was an uncouth womaniser, and David was a murderous adulterer. Yet God still used these fallible people to execute his plan. Does this encourage you that God uses fallible people to execute his plans?

5. Read verses 34-38 again. Are you willing to let God use you in a way that stretches you this way if it is a part of his perfect plan?
6. Are you or anyone you know facing an impossible situation right now? Would you like the group to pray for you now?

PRAYER LIST