



**Excerpt from  
*Values-Driven  
Discipleship*  
by Marc and Cynthia Carrier**

**Contents: a partial excerpt from  
the Introduction to *Values-Driven  
Discipleship* and complete  
chapter of Bible verses related to  
the character trait /value of  
FAITH.**

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## Excerpt from the Introduction to *Values-Driven Discipleship*

### ***Why this volume?***

We are realists. We know that most parents are not Bible scholars and don't have the time to become Bible scholars during the few short years they are granted charge of their children's spiritual growth. And the reality is, without knowing the verses off the top of our heads, we just aren't likely to pull open the Scriptures during those perfect teachable moments. The result: days, and then years, and finally an entire childhood of missed discipleship opportunities.

The answer: a resource of compiled verses for biblical instruction with a quick-reference index for teachable moments. Yes, a single resource for Dad to teach during family devotional times and for Mom to reinforce during the hustle-bustle of life. We have done the work for you, so that it is all right at your fingertips.

You may ask, "Aren't there already such resources available?" I would have to say *yes*, and *no*. One feature that makes this volume distinctive is that it focuses on the positive for *proactive* training. It is not a topical index of sins. This resource, on the other hand, is designed to proactively impart positive character traits in order to *prevent* the negatives. Can the index be used to look up unacceptable behaviors for correction? Of course! However, that was not the primary intent of this tool.

The premise is that if we impart the positive, we minimize the negative. I recently read an email that described evil as the absence of God, like cold is the absence of heat and darkness is the absence of light. This concept fits well with what we are trying to empower parents to do with this resource. If parents impart God's Word proactively, the sin that manifests itself all too easily in the absence of the Spirit becomes less prominent.

Likewise, all too often, as parents, we focus on the misbehavior and fail to address the underlying heart issues. This resource focuses on the character or heart matters. When a challenge materializes, how are we to address it? Do we simply punish, or do we discipline? Punishment says, "You can't behave that way. I'm going to spank you so you'll want to do better." Discipline says, "I don't really care if your math assignment...or you chore... (or whatever) gets done or not. I care that you have a godly attitude about whatever God asks you to do in life. I care that you learn to be diligent so that you honor God by working hard with your hands. I recommend that you pray and seek God's help to grow in this area. I can encourage you with some Scriptures. But if you continue to choose your way rather than God's way, I will do my part and discipline you. Why? Because I love you so much, I want you to experience the blessings that come from obedience to His Word." You see, one method focuses on the outward behavior, whereas the other addresses the underlying heart condition. We suggest focusing on the latter. This resource facilitates this proactive approach to discipleship.

### ***Why the 12 core values?***

I will have to recommend that you take a look at *The Values-Driven Family* to get the full scoop on the core value concept. However, I'll try to give it a fair treatment here. When I set out to write *VDF*, I began with a comprehensive, cover-to-cover Bible study. During this process, I noticed 12 consistent character traits that were common to all of God's servants, from the patriarchs to the prophets, and ultimately Jesus Himself. Upon further exploration, it became obvious that these 12 traits honestly encompass the whole of Scripture and the essence of Christlikeness. That's a bold statement, to be sure. But take on the challenge of looking into it for yourself. When it comes to our heart conditions and behaviors, these are

the values that God values—and you’ll see that there are hundreds of verses to back up this claim. These are the character traits that God desires us to both live out and disciple our children in.

### ***Why core value training is so effective***

Children have finite attention spans and the Bible is a big book. Learning and teaching it all is a formidable task. Getting children to retain it all is just about impossible!

Reading straight through Scripture is great. It imparts the historical context and setting like no other method could. That’s why we are in no way diminishing the value of reading God’s Word as-is. We have personal and family Bible reading times apart from more formal, “core value” teaching times.

However, when it comes to imparting God’s heart concerning our character and behavior, our children respond to the teaching much more powerfully when it is presented by core value theme. Reading one verse about faith to a child has impact; reading 30 in a sitting and 150 over the course of a week will have a lasting effect. This, coupled with opening up the Scriptures during real-life circumstances, brings the Word where it belongs—in our children’s hearts.

Another benefit is that a two or three-year-old child can understand the core values, whereas understanding some of the Bible passages would have proved beyond their comprehension. Building biblical knowledge and Christlike character around core values empowers us as parents to be imparting God’s Word to our children years before we would have been able to through conventional biblical instruction.

### ***Getting started***

Now that we know we have the incredible responsibility of instructing and discipling our children, how do we do it? Well, first, we have to make a commitment to *accept* this responsibility. Once we accept that it is our job, then the rest will quickly come together. It’s simpler than you think!

Although spiritual instruction doesn’t need to be difficult, teaching “diligently” definitely takes effort. Nothing in life is free. It will cost us our time and force us to sacrifice some of the things we’d “rather” be doing, personally speaking. We do family devotional times in the morning and the evening. We read for less than 10 minutes, discuss for about five minutes, and pray for about 15 minutes. I alternate between Bible reading and reading on core value theme periodically. When reading on theme, I try to stay with a core value for about a week. This allows me to go through just about the entire section for the respective core value. I literally just read the verses and we discuss it. It is that simple, yet incredibly powerful.

As a tool for “teachable moments” (to reinforce the instruction done during devotional times), simply pull your binder out, look up the subject of interest in the index, and read the applicable verses. For example, your children are bickering. You look up “arguing” in the index and it sends you to “controlling the tongue” and “effective communication” in the core value self-control. You simply read a few verses and explain to the children that God does not want them to give in to the confrontation, but rather respond to conflict in love. *Voila!*: you are discipling your children using God’s Word instead of missing out on this excellent opportunity. You see, every single conflict and challenge we have in the home is an opportunity in disguise. With godly wisdom and tools such as this guide, we can proactively shape our children’s character in Christlikeness. What Satan means for harm, we can turn around to enrich our children’s character and fulfill the sacred trust the Lord has given us: to impart His Word in our children’s hearts.

This scenario could (and should!) have a flip side: pay attention to *positive behaviors* and offer citations for encouragement. Don't presume that teachable moments only involve correction. Children are more likely to respond to praise than to criticism (whether real or perceived).

# Faith

## **Faith defined**

As we begin to explore the core value of faith and its importance to God, the most obvious question is, just what *is* faith? The simplest answer is found in Hebrews 11:1: “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Faith is trusting in God to fulfill His Word and His promises, making manifest in our lives everything that is according to His purpose—but faith means *expecting* and *believing* that God will deliver these things, even when they are far from being seen. We will see that faith has an important function in many areas of our lives.

## **Belief in God is not enough**

“Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.” (James 2:19)

## **Faith that Saves**

“Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.” (Jeremiah 17:5)

“Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.” (Isaiah 59:1-2)

“And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.” (Isaiah 1:15)

“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah. “I acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.” (Psalm 32:1-5).

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” (John 3:16-18)

“...we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”  
(2 Corinthians 5:20b-21)

“Among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God, who is

rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” (Ephesians 2:3-9, NKJV)

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” (Romans 10:9)

“According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.” (Ephesians 3:11-12)

“That the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls.” (1 Peter 1:7-9, NKJV)

### **Without faith, it is impossible to please God**

Hebrews 11:6: “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

“...whatsoever is not of faith is sin.” (Romans 14:24b)

### **Faith for today**

“For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?” (Romans 8:24)

“Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah.” (Psalm 62:8)

“Because you have made the LORD, *who is* my refuge, *Even* the Most High, your dwelling place, No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways.” (Psalm 91:9-11, NKJV)

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)

### **We are never alone**

“Thou whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, Thou art my servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away. Fear thou not; for I

am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.” (Isaiah 41:9-10)

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.” (Psalm 46:1-3)

“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39)

“I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” (Matthew 28:20b)

### **Anything is possible**

The Bible is clear that God is sovereign and omnipotent. This means that He has both the authority and the power to do *anything*, “For with God nothing shall be impossible” (Luke 1:37)! Here is an awesome verse to lean on: “[God] is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.” (Ephesians 3:20)

“If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.” (Mark 9:23)

“And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.” (Mark 11:22-25)

“And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.” (Matthew 17:20-21)

“Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.” (John 20:29)

“And Gideon said unto God, If thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said, Behold, I will put a fleece of wool in the floor; and if the dew be on the fleece only, and it be dry upon all the earth beside, then shall I know that thou wilt save Israel by mine hand, as thou hast said. And it was so: for he rose up early on the morrow, and thrust the fleece together, and wringed the dew out of the fleece, a bowl full of water. And Gideon said unto God, Let not thine anger be hot against me, and I will speak but this once: let me prove, I pray thee, but this once with the fleece; let it now be dry only upon the fleece, and upon all the ground let there be dew. And God did so that night: for it was dry upon the fleece only, and there was dew on all the ground.” (Judges 6:36-40)

**Faith in God's promises**

“And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent [change His mind]: for he is not a man, that he should repent [change His mind].” (1 Samuel 15:29)

**You can trust in the Word**

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” (2 Timothy 3:16)

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)

Read Psalm 119 alone and see how many times the words, “testimonies,” “precepts,” “statutes,” “commandments,” “word” and “law” are used. This chapter glorifies God’s revelation to humanity—what we call the Bible. Take some time to meditate on the greatness of the Word of God.

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.” (Psalm 1:1-3)

**Faith to hear God's voice**

“And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice. And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him ...” (1 Kings 19: 11-13a)

As you seek to be sensitive to God’s voice, be aware of your emotions and their deceptiveness. The Bible warns, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9)

**Praying in faith: effective prayer**

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.” (Matthew 7:7-8)

*First, we must ask:*

James 4:2 tells us, “Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.”



“Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?” (Matthew 7:9-11)

*Persistence pays off:*

“And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? I tell you that he will avenge them speedily.” (Luke 18:1-8a)

*We must believe:*

“But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.” (James 1:6-8)

*Proper motives:*

“Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.” (James 4:3)

“He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer.” (Psalm 102:17)

In Matthew chapter 6, Jesus makes the point that you should not pray to impress men, nor should you make a show of your prayer with many words. He says to go in private and just make your requests known to God, because He knows your need before you even ask.

“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.” (1 John 5:14-15)

*Be right with God:*

“Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.” (1 John 3:21)

John 9:31 says, “Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.”

“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” (James 5:16)

*Pray for an audience of One:*

“And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.” (Matthew 6:5-6)

*Get to the point:*

“But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.” (Matthew 6:7-8)

*Pray in the way Jesus commanded:*

“After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” (Matthew 6:9-15)

*By Jesus' authority:*

“If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.” (John 14:14)

“And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.” (Acts 3:16)

**When should we pray?***Always!*

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;” (Ephesians 6:18)

*When in trouble*

“Is any among you afflicted? let him pray.” (James 5:13)

*When sick*

“Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.” (James 5:14-15)

**Faith and the rules of worrying**

*Do not worry about evildoers:*

“Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the LORD: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday. Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be. But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.” (Psalm 37:1-11)

*Do not concern yourself about matters out of your control:*

“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7)

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.” (John 14:1)

*It's appropriate to concern yourself with today, but only consider tomorrow:*

“Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.” (Matthew 6:25-34)

**Courage and confidence through faith**

“The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.” (Proverbs 28:1)

“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” (Matthew 10:28)

“Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.” (2 Timothy 2:7)

“Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.” (Psalm 31:24)

“Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.” (1 Corinthians 16:13, NKJV)

“Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swore unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.” (Joshua 1:6-9)

“And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid: and I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land. And ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword. And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword.” (Leviticus 26:6-8)

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:” (Ephesians 6:10-17)

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.” (1 Peter 5:8-9)

“Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, “Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city.” And he continued *there* a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.” (Acts 18:9-11, NKJV)

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” (Ephesians 3:20-21, NKJV)

**Faith in action**

“What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.” (James 2:14-17)

**Faith and obedience***Lesson from the Israelites*

“I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.” (Jude 5)

“For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief. Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.” (Hebrews 3:16-4:1)

“Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.” (1 Corinthians 10:1-12)

**Case studies in faith**

The “great cloud of witnesses” (Hebrews 12:1) who are to be our examples in faith are referenced in Hebrews Chapter 11:

By faith, Noah built a large boat on dry land (Genesis 6). By Faith Abraham left everything he had and marched to unknown lands with his possessions in tow (Genesis 12:1-9). By faith, Jacob left his father-in-law to return home, in fear of his life at the hand of his brother (Genesis 32). By faith, Moses left the comfort of his people to serve God by leading the Israelites’ plight for freedom (Exodus 4), taking them through the Red Sea on dry ground (Exodus 14). By faith Joshua and Caleb saw the promised land in spite of the unbelief of their kinsmen (Numbers 13 and Joshua 14:6). By faith, David slew the giant Goliath (1 Samuel 17). By faith, Hezekiah witnessed deliverance from the Assyrian army 185,000 men strong without the loss of one of his men (2 Kings 19). By faith, Daniel faced the lions’ den (Daniel 6). By faith, the disciples left everything and followed Jesus (Matthew 4:18-22, Mark 2:13-14).

Last but not least, by faith, we stand firm assured of our forgiveness of sins and destiny in heaven with God forever through Jesus Christ: “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Act 4:12)

## **About the Authors & Additional Resources**

**Marc Carrier** is author of *Project Management Essentials: A Multimedia Curriculum for Homeschool Teens and Their Families*, *Keys to Kingdom Expansion: Truth, Freedom, and Power*, *The Gospel According to Jesus: Unwrapping Centuries of Confusion*, and co-author of *Values-Driven Discipleship: Biblical Instruction and Character Training Manual*. The overarching theme and purpose of these works is to challenge and inspire Christians to align their lives with God's precepts and to experience the abundant life that Christ offers, for God's glory and to expand the Kingdom.

**Cynthia Carrier** is the home schooling mom of eight, an author and speaker. She received her degree in Elementary Education from the University of Connecticut.

Cindy has written additional books, including *Home Sweet Home: Creating a Joyful Home Atmosphere*, *The Growing Homeschool: Integrating Babies and Toddlers into Your Already Busy Schedule* and *Growing to be Like Jesus: A Color and Learn Activity Book*. She has also co-authored *Values-Driven Discipleship: Biblical Instruction and Character Training Manual*.

The Carriers are transitioning to the mission field in Kenya in 2012. To learn more about their ministry, visit [www.KingdomDriven.org](http://www.KingdomDriven.org).

### **About Values-Driven®**

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- *Home Sweet Home: Creating a Joyful Home Atmosphere*
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