

FAITH OVER FEAR WHEN LIFE THROWS A CURVEBALL

Homework Handout for John 11:1-16 (KJV)

Sermon Date: August 13, 2025

Purpose: This handout helps you reflect on the sermon's message: We can conquer fear and uncertainty by trusting Jesus' perfect timing and plan. Use it alone or with family to deepen your faith, apply the sermon's points, and grow closer to Christ.

Introduction

Life throws curveballs—unexpected challenges like job loss, illness, or broken relationships. In John 11:1-16, Jesus faced Lazarus' illness and death, showing us how to trust His purpose, overcome fear through faith, and follow Him. This week, let's apply these truths to our lives.

Scripture Reading

Read **John 11:1-16 (KJV)** in your Bible. If you don't have a KJV, any translation works. Reflect on these key moments:

- Jesus delays going to Lazarus (v. 6) for God's glory (v. 4).
- The disciples fear danger (v. 8) and misunderstand Jesus (v. 13).
- Thomas commits to follow Jesus despite fear (v. 16).

Prayer: Ask God to reveal His timing and build your faith.

Reflection Questions

Answer one or two questions per day in a journal or discuss with family. Use the sermon's three points to guide you.

Point 1: Trust Jesus' Purpose Despite Delays

Jesus waited two days (v. 6) to show God's glory (v. 4).

1. Think of a time God's answer to prayer felt delayed (e.g., a job, healing, or relationship). How did it test your trust?
2. Read **Proverbs 3:5-6** and **Romans 8:28**. How do these verses encourage you to trust God's timing in a current challenge?
3. Journal: What "curveball" are you facing? Write a prayer trusting Jesus' purpose, even if it feels late.

Point 2: Overcome Fear and Confusion Through Faith

The disciples were scared (v. 8) and confused (v. 13), but Jesus pointed them to faith (v. 15).

1. What fears or confusion do you face today (e.g., finances, health, future)? How do they make you question God's plan?



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2. Read **Psalm 27:1** and **Psalm 56:3-4**. How can these promises help you focus on Jesus' truth instead of fear?
3. Journal: Write about a time faith helped you overcome a scary or confusing moment. How can you lean on Jesus' clarity (v. 14) this week?

Point 3: Follow Jesus Through Life's Challenges

Thomas chose to follow Jesus into danger (v. 16), showing growing faith.

1. What makes it hard to follow Jesus when life is uncertain? How does Thomas' example inspire you?
2. Read **Matthew 16:24** and **Psalm 23:4**. What do they teach about following Jesus through tough times?
3. Journal: Identify one step you can take to follow Jesus this week (e.g., forgiving someone, serving others, trusting Him in a crisis).

Practical Application

Choose **one action** to apply the sermon's message this week:

- **Memorize a Verse:** Pick one from the sermon (e.g., Proverbs 3:5-6 or Psalm 27:1) to remind you of God's timing or strength. Recite it daily.
- **Prayer Challenge:** Each day, pray about a specific "curveball" in your life, asking for trust, faith, and courage to follow Jesus.
- **Act of Faith:** Take a small step to follow Jesus (e.g., share your faith, help someone in need, or trust Him in a decision).
- **For Seekers:** If you haven't trusted Christ, reflect on the sermon's invitation: "Believe with all your heart and confess Him with your mouth" (Page 8). Pray or talk to a pastor about trusting Jesus as Savior.

Closing Prayer

Use this prayer or your own:

"Lord, thank You for Your perfect timing, even when it feels delayed. Help me trust Your purpose, overcome fear with faith, and follow You through life's challenges. Grow my faith like the disciples', and draw me closer to You as the resurrection and life. Amen." (Inspired by John 11:15)

Additional Resources

- **Reread the Text:** Review John 11:1-16 daily to see how Jesus leads through crises.
- **Sermon Notes:** Revisit the sermon (available online or at church) for key points.
- **Further Study:** Read John 11:17-44 to preview the resurrection miracle. Check out "Trusting God" by Jerry Bridges for deeper insight.
- **Connect:** Share your reflections with a friend or small group. Contact Pastor Hester for questions or prayer.

Challenge: Bring this handout to your small group or next Sunday to discuss what God showed you!