

Peter's 8 Handholds**1. Warm-up Questions:**

- What is something I prayed for desperately, but did not receive?
- What impact did this have on my faith?

BRAD'S STORY

My life has had many changes. Jana and I are separated. Our marriage will end sometime this Spring. I am sad about that, but I feel I did what I could to prevent this. I was fired last September for no good reason other than greed. It was a "good Christian man" who did the deed. You may anticipate my next comment: my faith is gone. I can't count on God. My prayers all seem to hit the ceiling. I know God is still there, but he has a plan that I don't understand, and I can't see myself in that plan.

- What has contributed to Brad's crisis of faith?
- Where would you begin to coach him back to trusting God?



Inductive Bible Study:

Observation (what does it say?) **SPEND MOST OF YOUR TIME HERE!**

As you read the text, ask: **WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHY, WHEN, HOW?**

Circle and draw lines to similar thoughts.
Notice contrasts and key words.

Interpretation (what does it mean?)

- What are the author's central thoughts to the reader?
- What is the context (time, place, circumstance, audience)?
- What spiritual principle or lifestyle change is addressed?

Application (what does it mean for my life?)

- What action step would demonstrate my obedience to what God is saying in this passage?

Romans 10:5-13

5 Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: "The person who does these things will live by them." 6 But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) 7 "or 'Who will descend into the deep?'" [c] (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). 8 But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: 9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. 11 As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." 12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."



Ephesians 3:14-19

For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom every family[a]in heaven and on earth derives its name. 16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Faith needs a foundation in objective reality (Romans 10:5–13), and faith needs to be experienced as a personal relationship (Ephesians 3:14–19). How do these scriptures display both of these aspects of solid faith?

T E A C H I N G

Action Steps:

Go back to where we began this session:

- Was there a time—perhaps right now—that your faith faltered? How does a firm foundation give you new hope and confidence to walk forward?
- How have you actually experienced the presence of God in your journey of faith?

Pray in your triads for each other that your faith will be built on a solid foundation.

Prepare for Session #2: Read Chapter #3 in DNRT: GOODNESS