Footprints of Faith

Testimony and Perseverance Through Temptation

Lesson Nine: Others Have Walked Before

Facilitator Guide

Purpose: Receive testimony thoughtfully and select an experience and audience for responsible sharing.

Readings: Hebrews 11:32–40; Hebrews 12:1–3; Ecclesiastes 4:9–12; Hebrews 10:23–25; 2 Corinthians 1:3–4.

Opening question: How can another person's footprint encourage without replacing personal judgment?

Conducting the lesson

1. Read varied outcomes. Include both deliverance and suffering. Challenge comparisons that assume rapid improvement is the only evidence of faith.

2. Consider companionship. Read Ecclesiastes and Hebrews. Identify practical encouragement and help while respecting confidentiality and limits.

3. Listen with care. Distinguish an observed event from the speaker's interpretation. Use the support-seeking illustration to recognize growth without exaggeration.

4. Prepare to contribute. Read the comfort passage. Discuss purpose, audience, appropriate details, and why sharing should encourage rather than perform.

Discussion

1. What help can another person provide during an unfinished struggle?

2. How can a listener respect an account and still examine its conclusions?

3. What changes when the audience becomes wider?

Application: Have participants identify one possible testimony, its intended encouragement, and an appropriate audience for sharing.

Close: Remind the group that the final exercise includes a written account and responsible sharing with others.

Facilitator reminder: Do not equate testimony with proof of every interpretation. Obtain appropriate permission before disclosing someone else's experience.