

STUDY GUIDE FOR “PRACTICE: UNLEASHING THE POWER OF FAITH”  
by Jane Jayroe

FIRST WEEK

1. Which of the stories spoke the most clearly to you?
2. Kristin Chenoweth writes about how she finds happiness in life and how joyful her attitude is because of her faith. How do we encourage the growth of joy in our lives?
3. Mary Ann Hille was a faithful caretaker for her husband during his decline into Alzheimer’s but she struggled to forgive herself for not doing a “better” job. Do you find it difficult to forgive yourself?
4. Governor Bill Anoatubby was greatly influenced by his mother and her values. Who was the biggest influence in your life growing up? What is their lasting gift to you?
5. Willa Johnson had a time that she backed away from the church. Have you ever been angry at the church? How do you think God wants us to respond?
6. The devastation of the bombing of the Federal Building in OKC left a mark on thousands in Oklahoma. Do you believe God can bring good out of evil?

SECOND WEEK

1. Tom Love has built an amazing business in America and yet spending time with his family has always been a priority. Do you find it difficult to balance family demands with the rest of your life? What kind of balance do you believe God desires?
2. When the Oklahoma sculptor, “H” Holden felt at the end of his life, his wife continued to believe that God could heal him until his last breath. That miracle came true. The Holdens say, however, they were at peace with whatever the outcome. How do we get in that position of faith?
3. Russell Perry had a tough beginning in life but has enjoyed tremendous success not only professionally but also personally. He believes that one of the greatest lessons he’s learned in life is the importance of kindness. What qualities do you believe are most important in your life?

4. Bobbie and Kay Murcer had a storybook romance and a celebrity lifestyle. When Bobbie was diagnosed with a deadly cancer you can see the great character of both of these Oklahomans and their deep faith. They gathered a lot of strength from Deuteronomy 31:6: “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you.” What’s your favorite scripture when facing difficult times?
  
5. Marc Nuttle was witness to a story about a man of remarkable courage and spiritual strength in the Soviet Union. It brought home to Marc the importance of standing up to difficulties and developing the strength to maintain his faith. How are you developing that strength?
  
6. Broadway star, Kelli O’Hara, knew her singing passion from an early age. She had the courage to step onto the world stage to express herself in that format. However, her talent isn’t just for success and show but is also a vehicle of her love for others. How do you use your gifts to serve others?

### THIRD WEEK

1. What was your favorite story in the past week’s readings and why did you identify with it?
  
2. Mo Anderson grew up in poverty but her dad’s lesson to her was about generosity. What lesson did your parents give you that are lasting?
  
3. A lot of people compartmentalize their lives: Church on Sunday; life the rest of the week. Tom McDaniel had a mentor at Kerr McGee who lived his faith every day, Frank McPherson. The way that Frank lived out being a Christian had a lasting impact on Tom. Is there someone in your life who has impacted how you live your faith?
  
4. Noma Gurich planned a lot of steps for success in her life. She never planned to adopt two children that her sister had adopted. The girls came to them with many undeserved problems. It was a leap of faith with no easy answer and little control over the outcome. Yet it was God’s call on Noma’s life to simply respond. What would you have done?

5. Phil and Cathy Busey are admired for their success, their generous hearts, their compassion, and their courage in the face of hardships. But Cathy's response to Phil's discouragement early in their marriage is an insight into their character. "What's important?" she asked him. How do you answer that question?
6. If you're familiar with the organization, "Faithworks," you know what miracles Sally Goin has brought into our community through her efforts. But she began with a small commitment to teach her daughter compassion and a young boy to read. What small action has God used in your life to make a difference?
7. Have you experienced a miracle? Heard God's whisper? Melvin Moran's story opens up the possibility that God is closer than we can imagine. What do you think?

#### FOURTH WEEK

1. Dewey Selmon wrote a lot about "blessings" and "thankfulness." While the Selmons had great success from humble beginnings, Dewey sees not only the successes but the struggles and the hard times as blessings as well. What does it mean for us to "bless the Lord at all times?"
2. Jill Donovan is one of the busiest people I know. Yet she writes about "standing still," "being quiet," listening to God. Do you know how to do that?
3. Can you remember a time in your own life that shames you? Dave Lopez was so transparent when writing about the morning of the Murrah Building bombing. He was caught, as many of us often are, in a bad mood with a bad attitude before that event changed the landscape of Oklahoma City and changed Dave's life as well.
4. Dr. Judith James is one of the most respected doctors/scientists to ever grow up in Oklahoma and she grew up in a small rural setting. Getting on the career path that would use her God given talent took a lot of perseverance and commitment. Her dream held firm regardless of circumstances. Can you share some of your dreams---past or future?
5. Bill Hancock has led a very successful life by any standards. His advice is to keep it simple. What does that mean to you?

6. Most of life is made up of small moments. And those are the very things that can sometimes defeat us. Terri Cornett remembers a time at camp that helped her realize the importance of keeping a faith filled attitude and imagination that blesses life. When you are faced with the dull or the dreaded details of life, how do you keep an attitude that God would be proud of?

## FIFTH WEEK

1. What is the story in this group that you most identify with?
2. Alton Carter, author of “The Boy Who Carried Bricks,” is my hero. When I read his devotional and his book, it seems like he grew up in a different world. I feel helpless to help. But Alton is the first to say that caring adults made a difference in his life even when he didn’t act like it mattered. Alton, Clarence Hill, and Deniese Dillon all play different roles in helping young people who are in desperate circumstances. Discuss how we, as a church or community or as individuals can help young people find God’s love and a better life.
3. My mother, Helene Jayroe, lived a life of unconditional love. Is there someone you know who lives like that?
4. Wes Lane has enjoyed a career as an attorney and in public service. But as it turns out, that was just part of the path to his true calling which only God could have orchestrated. Wes reminds us that God has a calling for all of us, if we pursue Him with all of our heart. What does that pursuit look like in your life?
5. Natalie Shirley has had great professional success. Yet she writes about her greatest learning experiences have come from her adopted children. The illustration she uses is about the concept of “trust.” How does she say that trust is developed?

## SIXTH WEEK

1. What did you find most helpful about Shannon Miller’s account of her fight against a very serious cancer?
2. The founder of QuikTrip left a legacy within that corporation but also within his community and in particular Phillips Theological Seminary for the value he

placed on quality education for pastors. Most of us have simpler lives but we all leave a legacy. What would you like yours to be?

3. Doug Lawler and Bob Burke share the painful stories of losing someone they love dearly. Both losses involved young people, in the prime of life. When life seems so unfair, how do we go on?
4. It's heartwarming to hear how dedicated Estella Hernandez's mother was to making a better life for her children. Estella said that her mother's faith never faltered and she trusted the Lord every step of the way. Have you experienced that kind of faith?
5. Isn't it reassuring to know that so many of our military leaders are faith filled? It's amazing to look back and see how God directed Rita's life from the beginning to fill an unexpected role of service. Rita not only trusted God by risking a new profession but she also was willing to work seven days a week for many years. Following God's direction often requires sacrifice, doesn't it? Has that been true in your life?

## WEEK SEVEN

1. What was the story that impacted you the most?
2. Do you know anyone who has lost a child to addiction? Have they been able to find a purpose beyond their grief that gave them peace?
3. Have you been the person to walk beside a friend or loved one who died from disease? Were you mad at God for not answering your prayers?
4. Dr Kopke's mentor, Dr. Jack Hough, believed that all healing is from God. Whether it is a miracle without medicine or the result of research and/or medical intervention . . . it's all God. What do you believe?
5. Olympic athlete, Madeline Manning Mims believes that God is more interested in our character than our comfort. What do you make of that remark?
6. No matter how successful we may appear to others, many question their abilities. Kevin Ogle has learned to lean into Christ's promise of presence in

every part of life---professional and personal. Do you have a special scripture for this season of your life?

7. Melissa McLawhorn Houston endured the bombing of the Murrah building in Oklahoma City physically. The damage was to her emotions and the cost was her faith. A priest shared the kindest message with her: "I have faith enough for both of us." What does that mean to you?

## WEEK EIGHT

1. On the outside, former First Lady Kim Henry seems to have had a charmed. Yet she and her husband endured one of the most difficult set of circumstances that can rest on anyone's shoulders . . . the loss of a child and fears about the health of the others. What did you learn from how the Henry's survived this tragedy?
2. The timing of Stephan's trip to Dallas to speak love into the lives of boys who desperately needed to hear what he had to say and the passing of his mother is amazing. What do you think of his last sentence: "Isn't it true that when we take care of the things that concern God that He takes care of those things that concern us."
3. There are few things more frightening than when we hear the words, "you have cancer." Yet, LeAnne Taylor can say, "I see now that it's one of the best things that's ever happened to me." Can you say that about some difficulty in your life?
4. Mike Strauss is a physicist who does research in Switzerland as well as teach at OU. His bright, scientific, mind believes that God is not limited by human criteria. Mike reminds us that God is true to His word when he says, "all things are possible." Is that difficult for you to believe?
5. The story of Police Officer Chad Peery is heartbreaking. Following Chad's death, his mother, Jan, learned to use her grief to help others. Jan says we must be willing to let go of the life we have planned so as to have the life that God has waiting for us. What's your response to this?
6. Jack Humphreys, Kirk's dad, was a good man, a Christian by any standards. But he had never matured in his walk with Christ. That changed when one man made a commitment to mentor Jack. One person; one commitment; and it changed one man who touched untold thousands of lives in Oklahoma City and around the world and whose reach continues far into the future. Do you ever wonder if you can make a difference?

## WEEK NINE

1. Sometime, circumstances in our lives are just not fair. Yet at some point, God can allow us to see everything with a different view. That happened for Tisha Tate when she buried her father who had failed her in so many ways. There was acceptance, forgiveness and peace that covered everything. Have you ever experienced a situation where you felt God's healing grace in a powerful way?
2. Addictions claim lives every day. The numbers of people who are able to change their life are limited but Glen did just that. And he lives to help others. Have you suffered the impact of addiction?
3. Life was not easy for a young girl from Viet Nam who moved to Yukon. Yet, she managed to do well in school, graduate from college and then law school. Today, she is a judge. She is tough and works hard to help others get a second chance. Her compassion comes from her own background of hardships. Are their difficulties in your background that give you more compassion for others?
4. We all take our health for granted when it comes easily. When Jim Gebhardt's health was threatened, he turned to his faith but he also felt he had a responsibility to God for the gift of health. Today, he works very hard to do his best with what has been given and never take it for granted. Do you think of your body/health as God's gift? How does that impact how you care for it?

## WEEK TEN

1. Have you ever had a turning point experience? Maybe it was a frightening airplane experience like Tricia Everest had or a health scare. Most of us don't make lasting changes once the crises pass. Tricia's life changed because of one incident. What about you?
2. How important do you think hope is to people? Sometimes false hope can be misleading. What is your experience?
3. The circumstances in Hannah's life were incredible when things lined up so perfectly for her to join "Up With People." Have you had an experience like that when it just seemed that God had a direct hand in arrangements for your benefit?
4. Vicki Miles-LaGrange could have been an angry young woman who walked away when she faced some very unfair treatment. Instead, she accepted an important

lesson from her Daddy: stand strong in your convictions and God will stand with you. What do you think about that?

5. Renzi and Lee Anne Stone suffered one of the greatest losses possible when their son died. Yet, they now look at the year of their child's illness as "the best worst year of their lives." Do you understand what they mean by that?
6. Sydney Rich went from being a normal, active student on a college campus to being a critically ill patient and then to a life as a severely handicapped person. At times, she felt that God was punishing her; her life was depressing. Yet she never quit trying to get better. Today, Sydney is an example of courage and strength. The bottom line for her: God can bring good things out of any situation. Do you believe that? Explain.

## WEEK ELEVEN

1. Wayman Tisdale was a giant of a man, an incredible athlete, whose smile lit up the world for his family and his fans. Yet illness took his life way too early. As people of faith, how do we explain the unfairness of life?
2. From the tiny town of Antlers, a young Peggy Stephenson held her head high in spite of the poverty that was her reality. Peggy married Charlie, worked hard, enjoyed being a mom, and now influences her community and the state with her compassion and kindness. Peggy used her cancer experience as a way to help others not only as a philanthropist but personally whenever she has a chance. How do you use your history to help others?
3. Mike Turpen's story is a great example of "letting go and letting God." Have you experienced that?
4. Mike Larsen writes that "Easy has no virtue." What do you think he means by that?
5. Can you say, regardless of circumstances, God is so good?

THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR OWN STORIES PROMPTED BY THE STORIES FROM "PRACTICE: UNLEASHING THE POWER OF FAITH." Jane Jayroe

