



When Faith Makes Us Uncomfortable

A Reflection Guide on Courage, Conviction, and Faithfulness

“Discomfort, rightly understood, is not a failure of witness. It is often evidence of it.”

How to Use This Guide

This reflection guide is designed to be used alongside the accompanying blog post from InteractiveBibleStudies.net, *Why Martin Luther King Jr. Still Makes People Uncomfortable — and What the Church Can Learn from His Courage*. If you have not read the post, please consider taking the time to read it first. The guide is meant to help you slow down, reflect, and respond to the ideas introduced there.

You may use this guide on your own, with a trusted friend, or in a small group or leadership setting. There is no required pace. Some readers will move through it in one sitting. Others may return to it over several days. Both approaches are appropriate.

As you work through the reflections, resist the urge to rush toward easy answers. Sit with the questions. Pray honestly and write candidly. Discomfort is not something to avoid in this process. Often, it is the place where clarity begins to form.

This guide is not about arriving at perfect conclusions. It is about allowing Scripture and conviction to shape how faith is lived with courage and faithfulness.

When Courage Disrupts Comfort

Martin Luther King Jr. is widely honored today, but during his lifetime, he was deeply unpopular. He was criticized, resisted, and urged to slow down for the sake of order and unity. Many of those appeals sounded reasonable. Some even sounded spiritual.

Dr. King understood something crucial. He understood that delay is not neutral. Waiting often protects comfort rather than justice. Silence often preserves approval rather than faithfulness.

His courage did not come from anger or ambition. It came from conviction shaped by Scripture and sustained by faith. He acted not because it was safe, but because he believed obedience demanded it.

This tension still confronts the church today. Faithfulness is rarely affirmed in real time. It often unsettles systems, exposes misplaced priorities, and challenges comfortable patterns. That does not mean it is wrong. Often, it means it is doing its work.

The question is not whether courage feels uncomfortable. The question is whether discomfort is enough to silence obedience.

Scripture Focus

The Parable of the Shrewd Manager (Luke 16:1-13)

Jesus tells a story about a manager who is about to lose his job. His master discovers that the manager has been dishonest and informs him that his position will soon be taken away. Realizing that his time is short, the manager acts quickly. He calls in his master's debtors one by one and reduces their debts, hoping that when he is dismissed, they will welcome him and provide for him.

Surprisingly, the master commends the manager, not for his dishonesty, but for his shrewdness. The manager understood his situation clearly, recognized what was at stake, and acted decisively rather than passively. Jesus then draws a sharp contrast, observing that people who live for this world often show more urgency and intentionality in pursuing their goals than those who claim to live for God's kingdom.

Jesus' point is not to praise unethical behavior. Instead, He highlights the importance of awareness and urgency. The manager recognized that a moment of decision had arrived and responded with focused action. By contrast, God's people can sometimes hesitate, delay, or remain passive even when the stakes are eternal.

The parable confronts readers with a challenging question: if people act decisively to protect their future in temporary matters, how much more should those who claim to follow God live with clarity, purpose, and urgency in matters of faith?

Supporting passages for further study:

Matthew 5:13-16 – “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Making the connection: Jesus makes it clear that faith was never meant to be hidden or diluted. When the church avoids discomfort to preserve acceptance, it loses its saltiness and dims the light it was meant to shine.

James 4:16-17 – “As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.”

Making the connection: James reminds us that awareness carries responsibility. Knowing the right thing to do and refusing to act is not caution; it is disobedience.

Reflection Questions

Take your time with these questions. Write as honestly as you can.

1. Where have I equated faithfulness with comfort?

2. When have I delayed obedience because waiting felt wiser or safer?

3. In what ways does fear of disapproval shape my silence?

4. Where might God be calling me to act with courage rather than caution?

5. What would faithfulness look like if approval were not the goal?

From Reflection to Action

Faithfulness is not only about clarity. It is about response. Use the space below to move from reflection toward action.

One conviction I cannot ignore:

One area where I have delayed obedience:

One faithful step I can take this week:

Write one sentence committing that step to prayer.

A Closing Prayer

God of truth and grace,

You call Your people not to comfort, but to faithfulness.

Teach us to recognize when silence protects ease rather than obedience.

Give us courage rooted in conviction, not fear.

Help us speak and act with humility, clarity, and love.

When obedience costs us approval, remind us that faithfulness has always carried a cost.

Teach us to value truth over comfort, obedience over applause, and courage over silence.

Strengthen us to live faithfully, even when it unsettles us.

Amen.