

Youth



✔ Prepare in Advance

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

- Retrieve, review, and have ready the video's listed below (links are provided on this session's webpage).
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

✔ Going Through the Motions

Play the clip from "Akeelah and the Bee".

- What did you think of Akeelah's effort during the spelling bee? Why did she not have to try very hard to be successful?
- What happened to when she was challenged with harder words? Why did she have to increase her effort?
- Is there anything that you easily accomplish? What is something that you have to give great effort in order to be successful?
- What type of effort do you give to your relationship with God? How important is effort in following Christ?
- Do you ever find yourself going through the motions when it comes to your journey with God? Why or why not? Why do we do that? How do we fix it?

✔ Doing God's work

Read 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 and watch the *Bible Background Video* for this session.

- What were some benefits David experienced as king? Do you think it was comfortable for him? Why or why not?
- Why was David not satisfied with his situation? Was there anything wrong with the change David wanted to make? Why or why not?
- Why did God ask David not to build him a house? Do you think God was pleased with David's intentions? Why or why not? Does this mean God wanted David to do nothing? Explain. What did God want David to do?

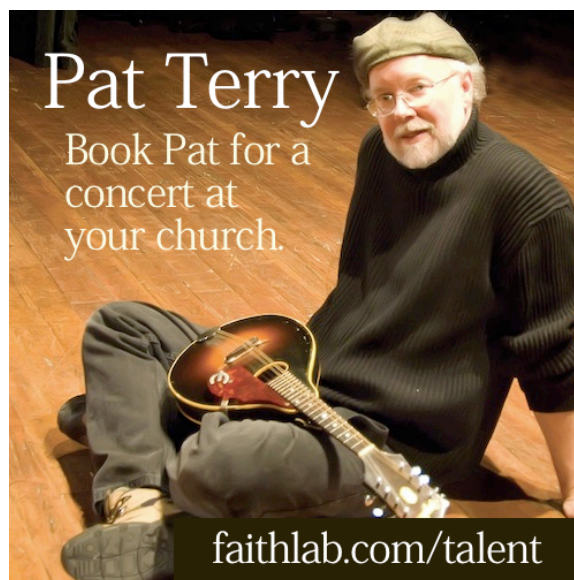
✔ Limiting God

- What do you think is God's desire for your future? How would you respond if your plans did not line up with God's plans? Why?

- Have you ever wanted to do something big for God? Explain. Do you think God needs/wants us to do something big for God? Why or why not?
- Do you think the way you "do church" limits God's work in your community? Why or why not?
- In what ways do you think our faith practices limit God's ability to move?
- How can this lesson prepare you during this Advent season?

Close with prayer.

By Don Breeden



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