

# Taking the Leap to a Rock Solid Faith

## Roller Coaster Faith

*Robert Schuller was one of the most inspirational preachers in the 20th century. He was known for his positive spin on faith and on life. Perhaps one of his most famous sayings is, "Tough times don't last; tough people do." Inspirational. Motivational. But does that really reflect your reality? This week we'll take a walk from the valley of the shadow of death and climb up to the peaks of the mountain ... and decide which place offers a safe place for the heart and soul.*

Deuteronomy 8:11–14

1. Life is \_\_\_\_\_ on the mountain top.
2. You're never closer to \_\_\_\_\_ than when you're \_\_\_\_\_.
3. There is hope in the \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_ is in the valley.

## My Count Me In! Commitments

- I'll be here next Sunday
- I'll invite a friend
- I'm in the valley ... I'll seek God with my whole heart
- I'm on the mountain ... I'll get consistent in my prayer time
- I'm willing to support others who are in the valley

## Additional Notes

## Digging Deeper and Going Further

Read Deuteronomy 8. This is part of a speech/sermon that Moses was sharing with the Israelites after they finished wandering around in the desert for forty years. At this point in the exodus story, the older generation who had been unwilling to cross into the Promised Land earlier had all died in the desert. Moses was speaking to their children and their children's children – many of whom could not remember the miracles their parents had seen. And so, Moses was warning them about the dangers of the “good times” they were looking forward to in their new land.

1. Read 8:1–4. What promises were made to those who were faithful to obey the Lord's commandments?

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2. Read 8:5. How did God “discipline” the Israelites during their journey? (Note that discipline here does not mean punishment, but encouragement to learn.)

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3. Read 8:6–18. Why does Moses suspect that the Israelites will stop obeying God?

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4. Why do you think it is so difficult to remain faithful to being obedient to God when times are good?

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5. According to this passage, who is responsible for giving Israel all these good things?

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6. Read James 1:16–18. Where does James say that good things come from?

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7. Read 8:19–20. What would be the consequences for disobeying God's commands?

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8. What are you doing to ensure you keep God's commands front-and-center in your life?

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