CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH	CHRISTIAN STREAKER: Shield of Faith
ë BIG IDEA	Faith is choosing to trust in God's goodness even when life doesn't look good.
ICE BREAKER	What's something that you find distracts you the most when you're trying to focus? (Could be work, phone notifications, TV, kids, etc.) Share how you try to deal with that distraction.
MAIN POINTS	<ul> <li>Faith is Our Badge of Honor and Acceptance (not what we do but what God does)</li> <li>Faith is Our Shield of Protection (protects us from the attacks of the enemy)</li> <li>4. Practical Ways to Choose Faith Over Fear         <ul> <li>Shift from "What If" to "Even If" statements</li> <li>Anchor in Scripture, not emotion - memorize God's promises</li> <li>Act as if God is good even before you feel it</li> <li>Borrow trust when yours feels weak - lock shields with others</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
DISCUSS	<ol> <li>Have you ever struggled with doubting your salvation or God's goodness? What caused those doubts?</li> <li>When you think of the word "faith," what comes to mind? How would you define it in your own words?</li> <li>Read Romans 10:9-10. How does it feel to know that faith (not good works) is what God responds to? Is this comforting or challenging for you?</li> <li>What are some "badges of honor" our culture values? How is faith as a "badge of honor" different from other achievements?</li> <li>Shan mentioned busyness, digital overload, and comparison as common distractions. Which of these affects you most? How do you see it impacting your faith?</li> <li>What are your most common "what if" fears? Try reframing one of your "what if" fears into an "even if" statement of trust. How does that feel different?</li> </ol>
NEXT STEP	What's one specific area where you need to raise the "shield of faith" this week? How will you choose trust over fear?
SCRIPTURE	Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.  Romans 10:9-10 If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.
NEXT WEEK SNEAK PEAK	Join us next week and invite a friend as we continue the series CHRISTIAN STREAKER looking at the Book of Ephesians!