

## Hold Fast to What is Good -Discussion & Study Guide

### I. The Reception: The Power of the Word

- In Panel 1, Sojourner is kneeling. Why is humility a prerequisite for learning the truth?
- How do you distinguish between your own “gut feelings” and the guidance of the Holy Spirit (the Lantern)?
- Why must we receive Truth (the Bible) before we are sent out into the “Trial”?

### II. The Trial: Navigating the Noise

- The “Trial” features shadowy figures and competing voices. In your life, what are the “voices” that try to pull you away from what is true?
- How does Lady Faith’s presence help Sojourner stay on the path without removing the noise of the forest?
- 1 Thessalonians 5:21 says to “test everything.” What are the “tests” or standards you use to decide if an idea is worth following?

### III. The Resolve: The Grit of Holding Fast

- In Panel 3, the Knight’s posture changes from kneeling to walking with purpose. What does “walking with purpose” look like in your friendships or schoolwork?
- The verse commands us to “hold fast to what is good.” What is one “good thing” you have found at Briarwood Christian School that you are convicted to hold fast?
- **The Vision:** Notice that Sojourner and Lady Faith are holding hands in this panel. How does our relationship with Faith change as we grow older and more “forged” by trials?

### IV. The Arrival: The Eternal Perspective

- **The Symbolism:** In the final panel, the Knight is welcomed by the King. How does knowing the “end of the story” change the way you handle a difficult day in the “forest”?
- **The Transformation:** The narrative says “faith becomes sight” upon arrival. What do you think it means for evil to be “abolished” in that final moment?

- **Legacy:** As you look at this mural, which of the four stages do you feel you are in right now? How can your peers help you – and you them – move forward in faith?

## Teacher's Key: Scriptural Foundations & Insights

### I. The Reception: The Foundation of Truth

- **Why is humility a prerequisite?**
  - **Biblical Foundation:** James 4:6 (“God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble”) and Proverbs 1:7 (“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge”).
  - **Insight:** In the mural, Sojourner kneels because one cannot receive the prophetic Word if they believe they already possess all the answers. Discernment is a gift from God, not a skill of the ego.
  
- **Distinguishing “Gut Feelings” from the Holy Spirit:**
  - **Biblical Foundation:** 1 John 4:1 (“Test the spirits to see whether they are from God”).
  - **Insight:** The **Lantern** represents the Holy Spirit, Who always illuminates the Word – not our own desires. If an impulse contradicts the Scripture Sojourner holds, it is not from the Spirit.

### II. The Trial: Navigating the Noise

- **Identifying Modern “Voices”:**
  - **Insight:** These are the “shadowy figures” of social media trends, peer pressure, or secular ideologies that “pull the Knight from the truth”.
  - **The Command:** 1 Thessalonians 5:20 warns “Do not treat prophecies with contempt.” In a high school context, this means not dismissing the “old truths” of the Bible just because modern voices shout louder.
  
- **Faith’s Role in the Noise:**
  - **Insight:** Lady Faith does not remove the voices; she provides the “encouragement to stay on the path”. Discernment isn't about escaping the world, but navigating through it without being consumed by it.

### III. The Resolve: The Grit of Holding Fast

- **The Definition of “Holding Fast”:**
  - **Biblical Foundation:** 1 Thessalonians 5:21 (“Hold firmly to what is good”).

- **Insight:** The word “resolve” implies a shift from passive listening to active guarding. As the mural shows Sojourner with a firm grip on his sword and the Word, students should understand that integrity requires a “clinch” – a commitment to hold fast by faith when the path gets steep or lonely.
- **Walking with Purpose:**
  - **Insight:** Notice the Knight looks toward the castle, the King’s City. This is **Teleological Living** – living with the end (the Kingdom) in mind, which makes the current “tests” of high school feel purposeful rather than random.

#### IV. The Arrival: Faith Becomes Sight

- **The Final Transformation:**
  - **Biblical Foundation:** 1 Corinthians 13:12 (“For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.”).
  - **Insight:** The mural shows the Lantern fading because the “moment faith becomes sight” has arrived. Discernment is a *temporary* discipline for our time on earth; in God’s presence, we will no longer need to discern what is good because all things will be good!
- **The Abolition of Evil:**
  - **Biblical Foundation:** Revelation 21:4-5.
  - **Insight:** The Knight’s armor is removed in the final panel because there is no more “Trial” left to fight. This provides students with the “Eternal Perspective” – that the struggle to “test all things” has a glorious, restful conclusion.