

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, March 26, 2006

Passage: Hebrews 11:1-7

Memory Passage: Hebrews 11:6 **TODAY:** *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Hebrews 11:1-3.** What two words are used to describe faith in verse 1? What do these words have in common?

(b) How are believers to live their lives according to Hebrews 10:38? What does Colossians 2:6 tell us about being saved by faith and living by faith?

(c) How does faith help us to live (2 Corinthians 4:17-18)? What kinds of difficulties did Paul face (2 Corinthians 4:7-10)? How difficult was his life and ministry (2 Corinthians 1:8-11; 11:23-28)? Compare these to the sufferings of these Hebrew Christians.

(d) What keeps a person going in such difficulties (Romans 8:24-25; 2 Corinthians 4:18; 1 Peter 1:7-8)?

(e) What kept these OT saints going in difficult times (Hebrews 11:10; 13-16; 25-27; 39-40)?

(f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 1:1-3. Talk together about faith. How would each person define it? Why? How does faith help us to face difficulties in life? Talk about some of the difficulties you are facing and pray together trusting God for each of these.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Hebrews 11:1-3.** Who are the “elders” that the writer refers to (Mark 7:3-5; Matthew 15:2; Hebrews 12:1)?

(b) What are some other translations for the word “good report?” Also compare this term in Hebrews 11:4 and Hebrews 11:39. Why does faith bring “a good report?”

(c) What foundational truth do we understand only by faith (Hebrews 11:3; Genesis 1:1; John 1:3)? Why is faith essential for this belief?

(d) What does faith *see* (Hebrews 11:7; 13; 27)? How does this apply to the creation of the world? How does it apply to the outcome of things in our lives?

(e) *Family:* Read John 1:1-3 and Hebrews 11:1-3. Discuss the creation of the world. What can we know for sure about how the world was created? Who was present at the creation? Why is faith an essential element for understanding the creation of the world? Is faith essential for understanding anything God is doing today? Explain. Thank God that His Word is trustworthy and true.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Genesis 4:3-5 and Hebrews 11:4.** What was the difference between the offering of Cain and Abel? Why would Abel’s sacrifice be “more excellent” than Cain’s (Hebrews 9:22; Proverbs 15:8)?

(b) Did Abel know what kind of offering would please God? How would he know this (Romans 10:17; Genesis 3:21)?

(c) What “testimony” did Abel have? How are our works *evidence* of our faith (James 2:14-26)?

(d) How did Cain respond to the Lord’s evaluation? What did his response show about the condition of his heart (1 John 3:11-12)?

(e) How does the sacrifice of Abel compare to the sacrifice of Jesus (Hebrews 12:24)?

(f) *Family*: Read Hebrews 11:4 and Genesis 4:3-5. Discuss the sacrifices of Cain and Abel. Why was Abel's accepted and Cain's rejected? What does this tell you about what God desires? What does it tell us about the nature of faith? Take time to pray for someone who does not know about the sacrifice of Jesus.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Hebrews 11:5 and Genesis 5:22-24.** Who was Enoch the father of? When did he live and how are those times described in Genesis 6:5)?

(b) What was the testimony about him? *When* did he have this testimony? How can we have this testimony (1 John 3:22)?

(c) What did he do during his life (Jude 1:14-15)? *How* was he able to live this life (Hebrews 11:5)? How should we live in difficult times (Philippians 2:12-16)?

(d) What was unique about Enoch? Will this be true of anyone else (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)?

(e) What is said twice about Enoch in Genesis 5:22-24? What does it mean to “walk with God” (Genesis 48:15; Deuteronomy 5:33; 2 Kings 2:4; Psalm 86:11)? What do Colossians 1:10, 1 Thessalonians 2:12-13 and 4:1 tell us about walking with God?

(f) *Family*: Read Hebrews 11:5 and Genesis 5:22-24. Talk together about Enoch and his experience with God. What would it have been like to live during the days before the flood? Would it have been easy to be a believer? How did Enoch live in those times? Read Colossians 1:10 and pray that each of you might be found pleasing to the Lord in everything you do this week.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Hebrews 11:6-7.** Why is faith so essential for living the Christian life? Is it possible to live obedient lives without faith? Explain your answer.

(b) Is simply believing in God's existence pleasing to God (James 2:19; Hebrews 11:26)?

(c) What is the testimony about God as a rewarder in Psalm 58:11 and Proverbs 11:18? What are some things that God rewards (Luke 6:35-36; Matthew 10:41-42; Matthew 6:1-5)?

(d) Read James 4:13-17. How is planning without God not living by faith? Why would this be sin (Romans 14:23)? What is God's desire for us (John 15:5)?

(e) How is Noah an example of faith that pleases God? Compare his response with that of Enoch. What are the elements of faith that pleases God?

(f) *Family*: Read Hebrews 11:6-7. Talk together about faith. What is faith? Can you define it? Why is faith so important in salvation? Why is faith essential for living? Why does faith please God? Talk together about some difficulties you face. Pray for these remembering that God will reward, though it may not be in this life. Thank Him for His faithfulness in rewarding His children.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Hebrews 11:1-6. Discuss the importance of faith in the Christian life. Can a person please God without faith? How does faith enable us to go through difficult times? How does faith enable us to trust God when we cannot *see* the outcome? What is the connection between faith and obedience? What is the connection between faith and rewards? Pray for your worship services tomorrow.