

Faith That Changes Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. What is one way you have changed over the past five years?
2. What is one encouraging thing that you can remember a friend, relative, teacher, or coach saying to you?

Read the following passages: Hebrews 10:19-25; 11:1-2.

Faith that changes is not faith in faith. It is faith in God. It is faith that comes from hearing a word from God. It is faith that trusts even when life hurts and our experiences don't make sense. Each of these qualities of biblical faith can be seen in the lives of the people the author of Hebrews mentions in chapter 11.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Take note of the places where the key words *confidence*, *assurance*, *faith*, and *hope* appear in Hebrews 10:19-25. How does this fill out the potentially vague description of faith provided in Hebrews 11:1-2? What is the nature of this faith that the author of Hebrews is describing?
2. Why might Jewish believers in the first century have considered it a big deal to be able to come into the presence of God and not die? Is the opportunity to be in the presence of God significant to you? Explain.
3. Noah, Abraham, and Moses all heard words from God that were strange and counterintuitive. God's instructions interrupted their lives. Have God's instructions ever interrupted your life? Explain. What are some ways you think God might be wanting to interrupt your life in this season?
4. Walking by faith led many of the people in Hebrews 11 into painful experiences. Are you willing to follow God's instructions no matter how painful it gets?
5. Is the greatest change you seek a deeper experience of God? Explain. (Compare Philippians 3:7-11.)
6. Has God spoken a word to you that you have continued to cling to in the midst of challenging circumstances? Explain.
7. How would you like to see your faith grow in this season of your life?

Pray