

Faith Defined

1 Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see. 2 Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation.

3 By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen.

Hebrews 11:1-3 (NLT)... another great passage on faith is 1 Peter 1:3-9

Observation (what does the text say?) **Interpretation** (what does it mean?) **Application** (what does it mean to me/us?)

Discussion/Topic Starters (Ice Breakers)

- Who sticks in your memory as the greatest person of faith that you have personally known?
- O: What things in the text strike you or jump out at you? Why?

Context (PRE chapter 11)

- O: What are the connections between what the writer of Hebrews just said in 10:35-39 and the themes of chapter 11?

Hebrews 11:1-3

- O: In the definition of faith in v.1, what two verbs describe faith? What is the object of both of those verbs?
- O: Is our faith directed toward the future, toward the present, or toward both (v.2)? Why?
- O: How does v.3 illustrate faith as the certainty about "things we cannot see" from v.1?
- I: Based on the definition of faith in v.1, is faith the same as belief? How are they the same and different?
- I: Based on v.3, why is faith necessary to see the Creator behind the creation?
When we understand God to be the Creator, how does that effect our view of "life issues" today (both personal as well as world-wide)?
- I: Based on these verses, how would you define faith in your own words?
- A: What are some verbs that describe your own faith? Why these?
- A: How has your life changed as a result of your faith in God? What has your faith cost you? How has your faith affected your neighbors? (see v.2)

Other Follow-up Questions

- I: How does Hebrews 11:6 exemplify this understanding of faith?
- I: How do we develop this kind of faith? (see Romans 10:17, 2 Cor. 4:17-18)
- A: Share with the group about a particular time in your life that called for endurance. What Scriptures and/or godly examples helped you remain steadfast in your faith? What did you learn about endurance?

Recommended Follow-up:

- **Pray:** Share the life circumstances (good, hard, and everything in between) that you need your faith increased in... Pray for the faith or each person in the group, and for the group and our church as a whole.
- **Respond:** Review the context of Hebrews chapter 11 (Heb.10:19-39). What practical step in this passage will require faith for you to take in your present circumstances? Be specific, pray about it.
- **Read:** Next week's sermon (10/3/2010) will focus on Hebrews 11:4 (& Genesis Ch.4) Take time prior to next Sunday to read & study the chapter, pray through the passage, meditate on the passage, etc.

* As discussed in Riverside's HGLT (Home Group Leader Training), these guides are to be starting points for home group leaders to develop their own guides and approaches to leading group discussions. This is a resource tool, not a rigid "go through this guide word-for-word." There are intentionally too many questions for a single home group time. These guides rely heavily on a few study guides; including "Run the Race" by Marilyn Burson (ISBN 1593870639), "When Faith is all you Have" by Ruth Reken (ISBN 0877880271), "Treasures of Faith" (ISBN 0875520960), and the Serendipity NT for Groups by the Young Life ministry (ISBN is N/A).