

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Look → Understand → Connect → Apply → Pray

Week of September 6

FAITH

Hebrews 11:1–3

MAIN POINT:

Faith is a confident reliance on God's character, promises, and unseen work, leading believers to live obediently and confidently in light of what God has promised but has not yet fully revealed.

KEY SENTENCE:

Faith confidently embraces God's unseen realities and lives as though His promises are already true.

LOOK — What does God's Word say?

Read Hebrews 11:1–3 together.

1. How does Hebrews 11:1 describe faith? What words or phrases stand out to you?

Leader follow-up:

- What do you think the author means by "confidence" and "assurance"?
- How is this different from simply hoping that something will happen?

2. According to verse 3, what does faith enable us to understand about creation?

Leader follow-up:

- Why is creation something we ultimately understand by faith?
- What does creation tell us about the God we are trusting?

Leader Note: Faith is not simply believing something without evidence. It is confident reliance upon God and His Word, enabling us to trust realities that cannot be seen with our eyes.

UNDERSTAND — What does it mean?

3. What is the difference between biblical faith and positive thinking, wishful thinking, or simply believing that something will work out the way we want?

Leader follow-up:

- What happens when we put our faith in what we want God to do rather than in what God has actually promised?
- Why does biblical faith require us to know what God has said?

4. Why is it important that biblical faith is grounded in God's promises and character, rather than our own desires or dreams?

Leader follow-up:

- How does God's character give us confidence when we don't understand what He's doing?
- Which attributes of God are especially important when we are struggling to trust Him?

5. Read Hebrews 10:23 and 10:39. How do these verses help us understand the kind of faith Hebrews is calling us to have?

Leader follow-up:

- What does it mean to “hold unswervingly” (v.23) to our confession?
 - What might cause someone to shrink back rather than continue trusting God?
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CONNECT — How does this connect to our lives?

6. What are some things God has promised that we cannot currently see or fully experience?

Leader follow-up:

- How does the promise of Christ's return require us to live by faith?
- What other promises of God give you hope for the future?

7. Why can it be difficult to trust God's promises when what we see seems to contradict what God has said?

Leader follow-up:

- Why do our circumstances sometimes feel more "real" than God's promises?
- What role do fear, doubt, or a desire for control play in this struggle?

8. Where are you currently tempted to rely more on what you can see, control, or understand than on what God has promised?

Leader follow-up:

- What specifically makes that situation difficult to trust God with?
 - What would it look like to respond to that situation by faith rather than by fear?
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APPLY — What will we do with this?

9. Read Hebrews 11:8–10. Abraham acted on God's promise before he could see its fulfillment. What would it look like for you to act on faith in a specific area of your life?

Leader follow-up:

- What would trusting God actually look like in that situation?
- What might keep you from taking that step?

10. What is one specific step of obedience, trust, or perseverance you sense God is calling you to take?

Leader follow-up:

- What promise of God can you hold onto as you take that step?
- How could the group help you follow through?

Remember: Faith doesn't guarantee earthly comfort or success. Biblical faith means trusting God's character and promises regardless of what circumstances may come.

PRAY — How should we pray about this?

Share briefly:

- Where do you need greater confidence in God's promises?
- Where do you need courage to obey God even though you cannot see the outcome?

Pray for one another:

Ask God to strengthen our faith, help us trust His character and promises, and enable us to live confidently in light of unseen realities.

Pray also for other needs, requests, and praises mentioned by group members.