

	<h1>Believing the Word</h1> <h2>Session Two</h2> <p>Hear. Believe. Do.</p>
<b>Connect. Care. Change.</b>	<b>Term: Jan/Feb, 2018      2<sup>nd</sup> of 3 Studies</b>

To respect the rest of the group, and especially the host and leader, let's all try to not miss a meeting.

- Our Annual Missions Banquet is coming up: Feb 23 & 24! Why not plan to attend as a small group?

### 1. Crowd-breaker (15min) [Leaders, please don't skip this.]

- Share a time in your life when you took instruction and things turned out well for you. **OR**, share a time when you refused to take advice and you suffered the consequences.

### 2. Video (5 min) Watch Session 2 Believe the Word.

### 3. Introduction

Adam and Eve decided to believe The Father of Lies rather than The Heavenly Father. They ate the forbidden fruit, plunging the human race into unimaginable destruction, despair and separation from God.

When Jesus was teaching & preaching, he summed up what it means to truly be people of God, <sup>30</sup>And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' <sup>31</sup>The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these." (Mark 12:30-31)

To love God with all of our mind is to engage with His Word; to know Him better and to being committed to knowing Him better. To love God with all of our heart and soul is to believe God's word and to seek the Holy Spirit's power and strength in turning that belief into doing what He says.

If Adam and Eve had faith in God and did what He said, life would have been very good for them and their descendants. No wonder the Bible says that without faith it's impossible to please God.

And so the Christian life is a life of faith; we believe God and do what He says. *Believing* and *doing* are the key components of faith. God's Word is what informs us of His will and what He wants us to do, or *not* do. For this reason we continue to seek to "hear" His voice by daily walking with Him, praying and reading the Bible.

### 4. Scripture Read: John 3:16-18, Hebrews 11:1-19 & Matthew 6:19-34 Leaders, only assign paragraphs to those who like to read.

### 5. Discussion (45 min)

1. John 3:16-18 tells us of God's provision for our eternal salvation. Why does our faith in Jesus save us and why are we not saved by our good works? Or, are we? Is there any connection?

2. Hebrews 11:3 *"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."*

- This passage speaks to the creation and the "Divine fiat;" God spoke the world into existence through His Word (Jesus).
- Why is it necessary to believe this? Discuss.

3. Hebrews 11:5-6 tells us that it is impossible to please God without faith. Enoch is held up as an example to us. Obviously Enoch's faith was demonstrated in the way that he lived.

- Based on what you know about God and what He expects of us, discuss how Enoch lived.

4. Hebrews 11:13 Tells us that we don't always get the things or the results for which we are believing God. (see verses 14-16)

- How do you resolve this in your own walk with God?

5. We are called to imitate Jesus. In Matthew 6:19-34 Jesus gives us practical instruction in living the Christian life.

- Discuss what the life of faith looks like based on this passage.

6. James 2:26 says that faith without works is dead. Discuss what this means.

### 6. Prayer time (not everyone has to pray out loud.)

*Fellowship and Snack*