

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, April 2, 2006

Passage: Hebrews 11:8-16

Memory Passage: Colossians 3:1

**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 11:8 and Genesis 12:1-4.** When God called Abraham, *where* did He call him to go? What did God promise to do for him?
- (b) What is the relationship between faith and the Word of God? Can there be real faith apart from hearing from God (Romans 10:17)?
- (c) What does this tell us about the nature of faith (Romans 8:24-25; 2 Corinthians 5:6-7; 2 Corinthians 4:18)?
- (d) How does faith *see* and what in faith gives us joy (Hebrews 11:1; Hebrews 11:13; Hebrews 11:27; 1 Peter 1:7-8)? What did Abraham *expect to gain* by obeying God?
- (e) How do faith and obedience go together? Can you have real faith without obedience? Explain.
- (f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 11:8 and Genesis 12:1-4. Discuss faith. What is it? Is it a “leap into the dark?” Is it “believing the impossible?” Is hearing from God essential for faith? Why is *seeing* not essential for faith? How does obedience give evidence of faith? Thank God for giving us His Word so that we might know His will and ways. Pray that you will trust His Word even when you cannot see the outcome.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 11:9-10.** What did God promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:7 and Genesis 13:15-18? What was he living in when these promises were made?
- (b) When was this promised fulfilled? Did Abraham ever live to see it fulfilled?
- (c) What “city” is he referring to (Hebrews 11:16; 12:22; 13:14; 2 Corinthians 5:1)? What is the contrast between the idea of “dwelling in tents” and “city which has foundations?” (Also see Hebrews 13:14). Why is this city worth waiting for?
- (d) How is the Christian life a “pilgrim’s” journey? What is a pilgrim? What should be a pilgrim’s lifestyle according to 1 Peter 2:11-12; Philippians 3:17-21 (especially 20); and 1 John 2:15?
- (e) What can we, as pilgrims, expect from this world (Hebrews 11:13; John 15:18-21)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 11:9-10 and 1 Peter 2:11-12. Discuss what a pilgrim is. Why are Christians called “pilgrims?” What should be our attitude toward living in this world? How did Abraham and the other OT saints keep this perspective? What did they focus on? Pray for difficulties that each of you face in this world. Pray that you might live “looking for a city whose builder is God.”

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 11:11-12.** What unbelievable promise did God give to Abraham in Genesis 17:17-19?
- (b) How did Sarah initially respond to this promise from God (Genesis 18:11-14)? What did the Lord ask Abraham?
- (c) Why did Sarah ultimately believe (Hebrews 11:11)? What does this tell you about the basis and the focus of faith?
- (d) Read Romans 4:17-21. What did Abraham believe about himself and his own efforts regarding the promise? Why did Abraham believe?
- (e) Did Abraham and Sarah have any struggles regarding the promise (Genesis 16:1-16)? What were the consequences of failing to trust God’s word?
- (f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 11:11-12 and Genesis 18:11-14. Talk about why it is sometimes hard to trust God. Why do we struggle in certain situations? Is our struggle to trust God on His Word any more difficult than it was for Abraham and Sarah? How do we grow in faith? Spend some time talking about some of the promises of God and give thanks together for His faithfulness.

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 11:13-16.** *How many* children did Abraham have when he died and *how many nations* had he established? Did this weaken his confidence in what God had promised?
- (b) What did they *confess* by their faith? How was this true of all the OT saints (Hebrews 11:39)?
- (c) What is the evidence that they were seeking a “heavenly country?” What would they have done if their hearts were not set on it?
- (d) How is this connected to the theme of Hebrews (1:4; 7:22; 8:6)? How is this theme repeated in Hebrews 11 (vv. 16; 35; 40)?
- (e) How does God respond to this faith? How would this kind of faith help these believers to keep from turning back to Judaism?
- (f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 11:13-16 and Hebrews 11:39-40. Discuss the ways the new covenant in Jesus is so much better than the old. What have we learned about this so far in Hebrews? How would remembering this strengthen the faith of these Christians in times of persecution and difficulties? How does a heavenly focus help us to handle life’s difficulties? Pray for someone today who does not have this hope of heaven. Pray they might come to faith in Jesus and receive the free gift of eternal life.

**DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Colossians 3:1-4.** What should every follower of Christ do? Why should we do this?
- (b) In Colossians 3:5-11, what kinds of things are we told to “put off?” Do believers sin? What should they do? How does a heavenly focus help to keep us from sinning?
- (c) Has the work of renewal been completed in us (Colossians 3:10-11)?
- (d) *Who* are we according to Colossians 3:12? How should our calling affect the way we live (also 1 Peter 1:1-16)?
- (e) Read Colossians 3:16-17. What role should the Word of God have in our walking with God and with one another? What should be our ambition and goal in all of life (verse 17)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Colossians 3:1-4 and 3:16-17. What does it mean to be “heavenly-minded?” Why should Christians set their affections/minds on heaven rather than on earth? How can we do this? How is this part of “walking by faith?” What should be our goal in everything we do? How can we do this? Spend some time talking together about heaven and then praise God for the heavenly city he has prepared for all who love Him.

**DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

*Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* Read Hebrews 11:8-16. How is Abraham a great example of faith? How does faith begin – is it just believing something? How are obedience and faith connected? Is this world our home? How should we think about the things of this world? How does a heavenly focus help you to persevere in difficult times? Pray for tomorrow’s services that God’s Word might be clear and that Christ might be glorified.

**DATE:** April 2, 2006

**PASSAGE:** Hebrews 11:8-16

***Walking by Faith***

*“And he went out, not knowing where he was going...”*