

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, May 21, 2006

Passage: Hebrews 11:32-40

Memory Passage: Romans 8:37

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 11:32.** There are more heroes of faith than the writer has time to mention. We will look at a few of these this week. Let's begin with Gideon. Read Judges 6:12-27. What do you learn about Gideon's faith? What do you see about the weakness of his faith?

(b) Read Judges 6:36-40. How strong is Gideon's faith in God at this point? Is setting out a fleece a normal way for believers to seek God's direction? Is this weak or strong faith?

(c) Read Judges 7:1-15. What does God have Gideon do to prepare to fight the Midianites? How did God strengthen his faith?

(d) Read Judges 7:16-25. How did Gideon defeat the Midianites? Compare this to Joshua's victory over Jericho. Why does God choose such methods (1 Corinthians 1:26-31)?

(e) *Family:* Read or re-tell the story of Gideon found in Judges 6-7. Was Gideon's faith strong or weak? How much faith does God require of us (Matthew 17:20)? How does God often increase our faith? How does the story of Gideon increase your faith? Pray together that each of you might learn to live by faith so that God might be glorified in everything you do.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Hebrews 11:33.** What things are accomplished by faith according to this verse?

(b) Who is Barak? Read Judges 4. What was the weakness of his faith? How does God give him the victory?

(c) Read Judges 14-16 noting times when the faith of Samson is shown and times when the weakness of Samson is shown. Why is Samson included in this list of those who were faithful? What does this teach us about God's faithfulness even when we are unfaithful (2 Timothy 2:13)?

(d) Read Judges 11. Who is Jephthah and what was his background (in birth and life)? Where is the faith of Jephthah displayed in this chapter? What foolish action did Jephthah take in Judges 11:31? Is this an action of faith or a lack of faith? Explain your answer.

(e) Read 1 Samuel 17:40-51. What is one way David demonstrated his faith (especially verse 47)? How had David grown in his faith (1 Samuel 17:33-37)? Did David fail in any way? What does this tell you about the kinds of people God uses?

(f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 11:32-33 and talk together about each of the heroes of faith mentioned in these verses. What were the evidences of the faith of each of these men? How was each one weak in faith? What does this tell us about how God uses us in spite of our failures? Pray that you might be faithful even when you have struggles and failures.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Hebrews 11:33-34.** How was Samuel's faith different from that of the others mentioned? What did he stand against in his day (read 1 Samuel 2:12-17; 3:1-21)? How does this fit with faith and "obtaining righteousness?"

(b) Who "stopped the mouths of loins" (Daniel 6)? How did his actions stand for righteousness even at the risk of his own life?

(c) Who "quenched the flames of fire" (Daniel 3)? How is their faith demonstrated (Daniel 3:15-18)? What is the greatest evidence of their faith?

(d) Read Hebrews 12:1-4. To what degree are we encouraged to resist giving into sin? How did these demonstrate that righteousness mattered more than even their own lives?

(e) Read Matthew 10:16-42. What situation does Jesus tell his disciples that they will face (vv. 16-25)? Make a list of the disciples motivations to stand firm from verses 26-42. Which of these have we seen in Hebrews?

(f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 11:33-34 and Daniel 3 and 6. Talk about what it means to stand for your faith. What are some situations that you have faced or will face that might require you to trust God for the outcome? Pray that each of you will stand firm in your faith no matter what the consequences.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Hebrews 11:35-38.** What is different about the experiences of these compared to the previous verses (except for the first phrase in verse 35)? Would these have been counted "victorious" by the world's standards?

(b) Read Romans 8:35-39. What kinds of things were these early Christians experiencing? How are they "more than conquerors"?

(c) What assurance did they have that kept them faithful even while being led to the slaughter? How does the love of God keep us strong in difficult times?

(d) Why would they endure such things—what did they believe that they would receive (Hebrews 11:35)?

(e) *Family:* Read Hebrews 11:35-38 and Romans 8:35-39. Talk about some of the persecutions that the early Christians experienced. Do believers today suffer in the same ways? How does faith enable a person to endure such things? Pray together for Christians around the world that are suffering for their faith.

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

- (a) **Read Hebrews 11:39-40.** What did every one of these receive? Who was this from (Hebrews 11:2, 11:4, 11:16)?
- (b) What was Paul's one great desire according to 1 Corinthians 4:5? What must he do to receive this praise from God (1 Corinthians 4:2)?
- (c) How is this the same message that the writer of Hebrews has been encouraging his readers with? What has he been assuring them (Hebrews 6:10; 10:35-36)? How would this encourage them to continue to be faithful in their difficulties and persecution?
- (d) Did they receive the promise (Hebrews 11:10; 11:13; 11:16)?
- (e) How is what we have "better" than what they had (Hebrews 7:22; 8:6; 9:23; 10:14)? How should their faith, even based on limited promises, motivate us as believers to live even more fully for God than they did?
- (f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 11:39-40. Discuss the difference between the faith of those in the Old Testament and the faith of Christians today. What motivated them to continue to trust God no matter what? Why should our faith today be stronger than theirs? Spend time thanking God for what we have in Jesus Christ.

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

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Hebrews 11:32-40. Discuss the nature of faith. What kind of faith is necessary for it to be victorious faith? How does God increase our faith? Can God use us even when we struggle in faith? What kept these Old Testament believers strong in their faith? Pray for worship services tomorrow, that believers might be encouraged in their faith and that some unbelieving may come to faith.

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Victorious Faith

"we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us ..."