**Hebrews 10:19 – 11:40: All about Faith**

**November 9 – 10, 2016**

*This week’s passage includes many verses (60), be prepared for how you will walk through the study. Chapter 11 consists mainly of examples of great faith, this passage can therefore be taken as a whole to be discussed.*

*According to the Bible there are only two ways to live. One way, by far the most common, is to live by sight, to base your life on what you can see. The other way, far less common, is to live by faith, to base your life primarily and ultimately on what you cannot see. This is the Christian way. Christians have never seen God, or Jesus Christ, or heaven, or hell, or satan or the Holy Spirit. We have never seen any of the people in the Bible. Thought we see the results, we have never seen any of the actual virtues that God commands or any of the grace he gives. Yet we are convinced of all these things by faith. We bank our earthly lives and our eternal destiny on things that we have never seen. That is the way the people of God have always lived – by faith. This is the life that pleases God.*

*This section comprises a comprehensive study of faith – what it is and what it looks like in a human life. Ch. 11 sometimes called the “saints hall of fame” deals with the primacy and excellency of faith. The chapter makes clear that, from the time of Adam on, God has honored faith, not works.*

*As a general theme, talk about what faith means, what it means on a personal level, how is faith formed or shaken, etc. Faith is critical…. to our faith… therefore guide the conversations to encourage your members to be open about where their faith is.*

*Faith: a belief in or confident attitude towards God, involving commitment to His will for one’s life. Faith means having utter confidence in the promises of God. According to Hebrews 11, many people in the Old Testament experienced faith as a key element of their spiritual lives. Faith is part of the Christian life from beginning to end. Genuine saving faith involved a personal attachment to Christ, best thought of as a combination of two ideas: reliance on Christ and commitment to him. Saving faith involved personally depending on the finished work of Christ’s sacrifice as the only bass for forgiveness of sin and entrance into heaven. But saving faith is also a personal commitment of one’s life to following Christ in obedience to his commands. Each time the phrase “by faith” is used in chapter 11, it is followed by a description of the actions taken by the individuals who acted in that faith.*

When has your faith in God been the strongest, shakiest? What are some scenarios that cause you to doubt or strengthen in your faith? How do you stay rooted in your faith and not let it be circumstantial?

**Read Hebrews 10: 19-39**

Discuss verses 19-25: What are the promises or commands given in these verses and what are the reasons given? What do these mean for you? Do you identify with these promises?

Do verses 26-31 cause you to be fearful of God? To what do you think the writer is speaking to? What is the contrast of verse 29 speaking to?

Verses 32-39 provide encouragement to be confident in the Lord, to be confident in the things He has promised; do you have this confidence? Have you let go of the things of this world (v. 34)? What are the promises and rewards?

**Read Hebrews 11: 1-40**

V.1: What does this mean? Break it down; what do these two aspects of faith mean? Do you believe this is true?

V.6: What does this mean? Do you think this is true? Again, what is the faith it is talking about (be specific)?

V.7 What does it mean Noah became an heir? Are we also heirs? Heirs to what?

Abraham was called to go somewhere he did not know: Has God ever called you to do something you did not know about or know where He was taking you?

V. 13: What is this verse speaking about? What is the significance of this? How powerful is the statement of v.16? Does this hold any significance to you?

V.24-28: Moses is commended for giving up the pleasures in Egypt to be one of God’s people. Have you ever felt a calling in this way? What is an application of this today?

V. 32 – 38 provides examples of extreme hardship that followers of God faced (flogging, stoning, killed by stone), what do you make of this? Is your faith capable of standing up to these types of hardships?

V. 39 – 40: Chapter 11 concludes with contrasting statements: *these people did not receive what was promised, yet God planned something better…* Dig into these verses, what do they mean? What can we take from these verses?

Has studying these scriptures strengthened your faith in God? Does this provide you with a fuller, or more clear depiction of God’s promises? What can you change, or how has your faith been changed through this study?