Making Disciples

Notes for Group Session Fourteen

Faith

Session Goals

1. The disciple will be able to describe how one or two heroes of faith demonstrated their faith in God.
2. The disciple will share an area in his/her life where they need an increase of faith.
3. The disciple will plan and share personal steps to increase their faith.

Start the session by discussing last week's Action Steps. Pray for one another, thanking God for successes and praying where there have been difficulties applying last week's lesson.

Definition of Faith

Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." It is knowing God is going to do what He promises. Faith is complete trust or confidence in someone or something.

The Importance of Faith

Hebrews 11:6 "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Mark 9:23 "Jesus said to him, if you can believe, all things are possible for one who believes."

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Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by Grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one can boast."

Matthew 15:28 "Then Jesus answered her, 'O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire,' And her daughter was healed instantly."

Matthew 17:20 "Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, move from here to there and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Romans 1:17 "For in the Gospel the righteousness of God is revealed — a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written, 'The righteous shall live by faith.'"

Matthew 21:22 "And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive if you have faith."

2 Corinthians 5:7 "For we walk by faith, not by sight."

James 1:6 "But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea blown and tossed by the wind."

Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not unto your own understanding and all your ways submit to him and he will direct your paths."

Faith in Action

Hebrews 11:1-40 [1] "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. [2] For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. [3] By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. [4] By faith ***Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain,*** *through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.(Genesis 4:3-8) [5] By faith* ***Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death,*** *"and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken*

he had this testimony, that he pleased God. (Genesis 5:24) [6] But ***without faith*** *it* ***is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*** *[7] By* ***faith*** ***Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household,*** *by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. (Genesis 7) [8]* ***By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance.*** *And he went out, not knowing where he was going. [9] By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; (Genesis 12:1-3) [10] for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. [11] By faith* ***Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed,*** *and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. (Genesis 21:1-3) [12] Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude – innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore. [13] These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. [14] For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. [15] And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had the opportunity to return. [16] But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them. [17] By faith* ***Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac,*** *and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, [18] of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," [19] concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. [20] By faith* ***Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.*** *[21] By faith* ***Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph,*** *and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. [22]* ***By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel,*** *and gave instructions concerning his bones. [23]* ***By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents,*** *because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. [24] By faith* ***Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,*** *[25] choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, [26] esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. [27] By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him*

who is invisible. [28] ***By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood,*** *lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them.* [29] *By faith* ***they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land,*** *whereas the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned.* [30] *By faith* ***the walls of Jericho fell after they were encircled for seven days.*** [31] *By faith the harlot Rahab* ***did not perish with those who did not believe,*** *when she had received the spies with peace.* [32] *And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of* ***Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets:*** [33] ***who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,*** [34] *quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.* [35] ***Women received their dead raised to life again.*** *Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, so that they might obtain a better resurrection.* [36] *Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.* [37] *They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented –* [38] *of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.* [39] *And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,* [40] *God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us." NKJV*

How to Increase Your Faith

Romans 10:17 "So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God." Read, memorize, meditate on God's word.

Romans 1:12 "That is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith." Spend time with other believers. Talk about what God is doing in your life and in theirs.

Mark 9:23 "Jesus said to him, if you can believe, all things are possible for one who believes." Pray specifically and record what you have asked for and when God answered. Your testimony will build your faith and the faith of others.

Action Steps

- Apply a method to increase faith this week, share in the next session the result.

- Look up details of the lives of one or two of the characters in Hebrews 11:32 share next week how they demonstrated their faith.