

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

THE SOURCE - VII

Faith

Pastor Miles McPherson – December 16, 2012



ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. If you are still rusty with Groups 2.0, or are not using it at all, please check out our video tutorials on Leader Central that will walk you through the process. Moving forward it is important that we are all using the system effectively. Please contact john.darrow@sdrock.com.
2. If you know somebody that is interested in stepping up to lead a Community Group please have them go to <http://www.sdrock.com/communitygroups/lead/> to fill out an application to get started today!

MEMORY VERSE

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1)

DISCUSSION STARTERS

1. REVIEW THE SUNDAY MESSAGE

Importance of faith:

It's impossible to have salvation without faith. Ephesians 2:8-9

It's impossible to resist evil without faith. Ephesians 6:16

It's impossible to please God without faith. Hebrews 11:6

It's impossible to pray without faith. Matthew 21:22

It's impossible to be happy without faith. Romans 5:1

Faith is about two words – facts and acts.

1. Faith is about knowing and trusting in **facts**.
Hebrews 11:1
2. Increase your faith by increasing the **amount** of trusted and obeyed facts.
Romans 10:17
3. Faith is measured by how fast and completely you act by **obeying** the facts.
James 2:14-20



COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS – THE SOURCE, PART SEVEN

STUDY INTRODUCTION:

Often in our culture, we view faith as something that is “blind” or in some circles; it can be viewed as a fairytale concept that we mature out of. This misses the very point and purpose of true biblical faith. This Sunday Pastor Miles showed that true biblical faith consists of two key words: facts and acts.

Our study this week will force us to draw our understanding of faith from these two aspects. The challenge is for us to grow in the “facts” area of faith, as well as grow in the “acts” response to our faith.

STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. Read Heb. 11:1-3 together as a group. What are some initial observations you can make about the concept of faith?
 - Faith is the Greek word *pistis*, and it has five primary meanings:
 - Believe – The verbal expression usually refers to Scripture (John 2:22), the prophets (Acts 26:27), Moses (John 5:46-47), or even John the Baptist (Mark 11:31). This is usually with a ‘yes or no’ response. We either believe or not.
 - Obey – Simple belief is not enough. It requires strict obedience to what we believe (see above; Ro. 1:8; 1 Thess. 1:8).
 - Trust – Our trust in God will lead inevitably to prayer, or communication with God, as Creator, Sustainer, and Father (Mark 11:22; James 1:6).
 - Hope – Our hope reveals a sense of confidence in what we believe, especially that which can’t be seen.
 - Faithfulness – If you are hopeful and confident in your faith, it is natural for you to persevere under any circumstances (Heb. 12:1, 13:7; 2 Tim. 4:7; Rev. 2:13).
 - v. 3 states that by faith we can “understand” that the universe was created by the word of God. Understand is the Greek word *nooumen*, which at its root simply means to have an inner sense or a powerful perception of an object. Here we can have a well-informed knowledge of the work of God by faith. All of the elements of God’s creation came from an outer source. This is believed, obeyed, trusted, by faith.
2. Consider the five aspects of faith: believe, obey, trust, hope, and faithfulness. Which of these do you seem to comprehend really well, and which ones are hard to grasp onto? How are you living this concept of faith out in your daily life? Can you give a practical example where your faith was a progression of these five aspects? Explain.
 - This may take time to formulate, but challenge the group to think through the implications of these components of faith. How can we integrate them if we lack, and how can we encourage each other to persevere in our faith?
3. Read James 2:14-17 together as a group. True Christ-centered faith involves “works.” How can we reconcile the definition of faith above the concept of true faith including works?
 - The context explains that “works” was the assistance of the poor and the widow. The typical Jewish community often neglected these people in their culture at this time. James explains that this neglect displays a lack of faith because of its lack of practice.



