

LIVING BEYOND

WHEN THE WORLD DOESN'T

DISCUSSION GUIDE

MAIN IDEA: Faith involves investing more of ourselves in God's plan than our own.

WELCOME 10 MINUTES

Where have you invested significant time or money in your life? What was driving those investments?

WORSHIP 10 MINUTES

Watch, listen, and worship with the song *Give Me Faith* by Elevation Worship on YouTube. Watch the lyric video and pay attention to the prayer inside the song. Afterwards, pray over these things together.

- For a soft heart and to see God's hand in life's difficulties.
- Help us surrender fully to God's will.
- Cleanse and consecrate us as we repent of anything that isn't inside of God's will.
- Help us trust in God's goodness and direction.
- Help us continue to grow in an active faith that is lived out in community.

WORD 35 MINUTES

Our fall series on Hebrews 11 will cover numerous Old Testament stories. So while our weekly discussion will unpack Hebrews 11 and the weekend message, let's also commit to reading God's Word before meeting together so we have a fresh view of the whole story.

1. Read Hebrews 10:32-34. What are some of the categories of faith testing we see in this passage?
2. Is there anything in this passage that surprises you? Why or why not?
3. Considering the four categories of faith testing (verbal ridicule, persecution, indirect suffering, and loss), have you had one of these tests shape your faith?

4. Read Hebrews 11:1-3. The definition of faith found in verse one could be used for anything, even secular faith. As Christians, where do we put our hope and conviction? How would you articulate this to someone who doesn't understand the Christian faith?
5. Is there something you currently don't see but are trusting that God will provide?
6. In verse three is the fundamental doctrine that we believe God created the heavens and the earth. Even more so, it was done by the Word (logos) of God. Do you have trouble believing this?
7. Read John 1:1-5. This spoken Word was made flesh in Jesus Christ. How does the same Word that made life come into existence give you spiritual life?

WORKS 15 MINUTES

Begin the process of establishing four spiritual rhythms as a community. Here are the four rhythms to practice together this fall and to start scheduling dates to practice these rhythms. Take some time now to put these dates on the calendar.

1. Daily Devotion: To prepare for next week's message and group discussion read Genesis 1-4. You can break this up into multiple days or read the whole passage a couple of times. This will help frame the verse Hebrews 11:4.
2. Prayer Week: Schedule a week that your group will commit to daily prayer together. You'll end the week with your group meeting devoted to a time of prayer. Your group leader has a prayer guide to help lead this experience.
Prayer week date: _____
3. Serve Week: Begins preparations for your group to serve together as your group meeting one week. Serving our community is a vital part of the Christian life.
Serve week date: _____
4. Celebration Week: End this fall's group season with a celebration of some kind. A meal, a night out, or going out and having fun.
Celebration date: _____