

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, April 23, 2006

Passage: Hebrews 11:17-19

Memory Passage: 1 Peter 1:7 **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 11:17.** What did Abraham do by faith according to this passage?

(b) In James 2:21-24, what does James tell us about how trials test or prove the reality of faith? Did Abraham's actions justify him or did they demonstrate that he truly trusted God? Can a person really have "faith" without actions?

(c) Read Genesis 22:1-12. According to verse 12, why did God test Abraham with this trial? What did the trial show or demonstrate?

(d) In Genesis 22:2, we see the description of Abraham's love for Isaac. Was there anything wrong with this love? What was God testing in Abraham (Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Matthew 10:37-38)?

(e) What does God desire from us (Matthew 22:35-39; Deuteronomy 10:12)? What great question did Jesus continually ask Peter in John 21:15-17?

(f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 11:17, Genesis 22:1-12, and James 2:21-24. Talk about the relationship of faith and works. Do our works save us? What do they demonstrate? Can we have real faith without works? Explain. What was God testing in Abraham's life? What does God want from our lives more than anything else? Ask the Lord to give each of you a love for Him that is above everything else in life.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Peter 1:3-8.** What was the most difficult test your faith has ever experienced? What did you learn about yourself in that test? What did you learn about God?

(b) Why should we now rejoice, even though we are facing trials in life (1 Peter 1:6; James 1:2-4)?

(c) What kinds of trials does God allow in our lives (Psalm 66:10-12; Hebrews 11:35-38)? *Why* does God allow these trials (Malachi 3:3; Romans 5:3-4; Psalm 66:10-12)?

(d) What should be our confidence when we go through trials (1 Peter 1:7; Job 23:10; James 1:12; 2 Corinthians 4:17)?

(e) Should such trials cause us to question our salvation? What does Peter remind his readers (1 Peter 1:4-5)?

(f) *Family:* Read 1 Peter 1:3-8. Discuss the difficulties of living by faith. Can Christians expect to have easy lives if they follow Christ? Why does God allow certain trials and difficulties in our lives? What does God design the trials for in our lives? Pray together for someone that is going through a difficult time right now. Pray Job 23:10 for this person.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Hebrews 11:17-19.** Has there ever been a time when you struggled to obey God's command? How does faith in the promises of God enable us to obey even when obedience is difficult?

(b) *Why* was Abraham willing to offer up his son? *What* did he believe God was able to do?

(c) In Genesis 22:5, what indicates that Abraham expected God would do something to keep His promise to him?

(d) Read Romans 4:17-21. What did Abraham recognize about his own ability to produce a son? Why did he grow strong in his faith?

(e) Why did Sarah trust God (Hebrews 11:11)? What should be our attitude toward anything that God has asked us to do (Ephesians 3:20; Luke 18:27; 2 Corinthians 1:9; Matthew 9:28)?

(f) *Family*: Read Hebrews 11:17-19. Ask: Is it hard to obey God sometimes? Why is this? How does faith help us to obey? What does faith expect God to do? Do all the answers to God's promises come in this life? Does God reward those who endure under trials (James 1:12)? Pray that each of you might be willing to obey God this week no matter what the circumstances may be.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Peter 4:12-19.** What does Peter tell his readers is not strange or surprising (2 Timothy 3:12; John 15:20)?

(b) What are we told to do when we face these sufferings (1 Peter 4:13-14)?

(c) What should be our goal/desire in all suffering (1 Peter 4:14, 16)? What kind of suffering are we to avoid (1 Peter 4:15)? Why? How does it affect the glory of God and our testimony for Him?

(d) What warning does he give to believers who do not suffer for the glory of God (1 Peter 4:17-18)?

(e) What should we do in every time of trial (1 Peter 4:19)? What did Jesus do when he suffered (1 Peter 2:23)?

(f) *Family*: Read 1 Peter 4:12-19 and talk together about the suffering of Christians. Does becoming a Christian protect you from all suffering and difficulties? What should be our goal whenever we suffer? Pray for suffering believers around the world that they might continue to bear a faithful witness for Christ in difficult situations.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Hebrews 11:19.** What is meant by “received him in a figure (or “type”)”? What does the sacrifice of Isaac point us to?

(b) Read Genesis 22:13-14. What did Abraham find in the bushes? How is this sacrifice a figure or type of another one sacrifice that the writer of Hebrews has been emphasizing (Hebrews 9:12-14)?

(c) What did Abraham *name the place*? Why? What had Abraham told his son in Genesis 22:8?

(d) How did God provide for us (John 1:29; 1 Peter 1:19)?

(e) How has Jesus paid for our sins (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 2:14)?

(f) *Family*: Read Hebrews 11:19 and Genesis 22:13-14. Discuss how God provided a sacrifice as a substitute for Isaac. How is this substitution a “figure/type” for us today? Discuss the substitutionary atonement of Jesus. How is God Jehovah-Jireh? How does faith trust Him to provide for us? Spend some time sharing how God has provided for you and then spend time praising Him!

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Hebrews 11:17-19. Why does God test our faith? What does He want to accomplish by sufferings in our lives? How does faith give us the confidence to face trials without giving in? How does faith cause us to remember who God is and what He can do? Pray that the preaching of the Word of God might encourage believers to trust God. Pray that He might be glorified in every difficulty.