

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, May 14, 2006

Passage: Hebrews 11:30-31

Memory Passage: 1 Corinthians 6:11

**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 11:30 and Joshua 1:1-9.** What was Joshua's concern after Moses died? How does God answer that concern?
- (b) What one thing does God tell Joshua to do (vv. 6, 7, 9)?
- (c) What is to be the basis of his strength (1:5; 1:9)? What is the sole basis of confidence that the Lord gives to Joshua? Why is this enough (Romans 8:31)?
- (d) What is Joshua told to do in Joshua 1:7-8? How is the Word of God a basis for Joshua's success?
- (e) What promise does the Lord give to Joshua if he will make the Word his priority? Compare this with Psalm 1:1-3 and Deuteronomy 5:29 and Luke 11:28-29.

(f) *Family:* Read Joshua 1:1-9 and Psalm 1:1-3. Talk together about the relationship between courage and faith. How did God give Joshua courage to lead Israel after the death of Moses? Where can we get our courage and strength? Pray together that the Word of God will be the foundation for your lives.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 11:30 and Joshua 5.** What two things do the people of Israel prior to the battle do that testifies to their faith? What two similar acts do believers today celebrate that give testimony to their faith?
- (b) Read Joshua 5:13-15. What do you think Joshua was doing near the city of Jericho so close to the time of battle? Who does he encounter there?
- (c) What is strange about the response that Joshua receives to his question? What does this tell you about what the Lord desires in every situation (1 Corinthians 1:29, 31; Jeremiah 9:23-24; 2 Corinthians 10:17)?
- (d) Who is this person that Joshua encounters? How can you tell from the passage (also consider Revelation 19:10; 22:8-9; Acts 10:25-26; Exodus 3:1-6)?
- (e) What does the Lord tell Joshua about the outcome of the battle (Joshua 6:2)? How was Joshua's faith transformed by this encounter (Joshua 6:16)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Joshua 5:13-15 and Hebrews 11:30. Discuss whose side the Lord is on. What matters most to the Lord—a victory or His glory? Talk together about times when winning or being right is more important to us than God's honor. Does having faith mean that we will see the victory? Pray that the Lord will be glorified in this week in all that you do and say.

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 11:30-31 and Joshua 6.** What had the 12 spies told the people about the cities of this land (Deuteronomy 1:28; Numbers 13:28)?
- (b) What does the Lord tell Joshua to do to capture this great city (Joshua 6:1-5)?
- (c) What did Joshua specifically tell the people not to do (Joshua 6:7-10)? Would this have been difficult for them? Why?
- (d) Why does the writer of Hebrews say, "by faith" the walls fell down? Who received the glory for the destruction of Jericho?
- (e) What curse did Joshua place upon anyone who would rebuild the city? What happened in 1 Kings 6:34? How does this show the faithfulness of God to keep His Word?
- (f) *Family:* Read Joshua 6. What do you think would be a good way to defeat a fortified city (like a castle)? If you were in Jericho, what would you think about the Israelites? What if you were one of the Israelites marching around the city? How does faith keep us obeying God when everyone else has given up? Pray for strength to obey God no matter what others might be thinking or saying.

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 11:31 and Joshua 2:1-24.** Where did the 2 spies lodge? How did Rahab protect them? Was Rahab saved *because* she lied? Why was she saved? What does this tell us about saving faith?
- (b) Why did she protect them (Joshua 2:9-11)? When did Rahab have faith? When did she demonstrate saving faith?
- (c) What was *the basis* for her faith (Romans 10:14-17)? How is this evident in Joshua 2:9-11?
- (d) What was she required to do to have her family saved during the attack on Jericho (Joshua 2:12-21)? How is the spy's promise similar to God's Passover promise in Exodus 12:23?
- (e) How did her faith encourage the people of Israel (Joshua 2:23-24)? How was Rahab "rewarded" (Joshua 6:25; Matthew 1:5)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Joshua 2:1-24 and Matthew 10:41-42. Define faith. How much faith is required to be saved? Do true believers ever do things that are not pleasing to God? Does this affect their salvation? Will God reward our obedience (Hebrews 6:10)? Thank God for His faithfulness to keep every promise He has made to us, including rewarding our obedience and service.

**DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Hebrews 11:31 and 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.** How is Rahab described in Hebrews 11:31 and James 2:25—what title is she given? What did Jesus tell the Pharisees in Matthew 21:31? What does this tell us about the transforming power of the gospel?
- (b) What were the situations of the women in John 4:16 and Luke 7:38-47? What did Jesus say about his ministry (Matthew 9:13)?
- (c) What did Paul remind the Corinthian church in 1 Corinthians 1:26-31? Why has God chosen to do this?
- (d) Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. What kinds of people have been transformed by the gospel? What does this tell you about the power of the gospel? Does faith also change believers (2 Corinthians 3:19; 2 Peter 1:5-9)?
- (e) Compare the backgrounds of Joshua and Rahab. How were they different? How were they the same? Compare the faith of Joshua and Rahab—how was it different? How was it the same? What does this teach us about the transforming nature of faith?
- (f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 11:31 and 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. How does faith transform people? Is there anyone that is too evil to be saved and changed by God? How does faith transform believers? Pray together for someone who needs to be changed by the power of the gospel.

**DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

*Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* Read Hebrews 11:30-31. Talk about the situation that Joshua and the people of Israel faced in capturing the city of Jericho. Why does the writer say that the walls came down “by faith?” How did faith enable Joshua and Israel? Discuss Rahab’s situation and her background. How did faith transform her? Pray that God would be honored in worship services tomorrow and that people might be changed as they put their faith in God.

**DATE:** May 14, 2006

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***Transforming Faith***  
*“And such were some of you ...”*