WOODVALE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Connect Group Sermon Aligned Discussion Guide.

Series Title: SEVEN KEYS TO LIVING BY FAITH
Key Scripture: Hebrews 11:5,6 (and the whole chapter)
Recorded Sermon: www.woodvale.ca/pastservices/v/seven-keys-to-living-by-faith
Date + Speaker: Pastor Mark Scarr – September 15st, 2024

Starter: What is your favourite worship song?
In sports, do you usually cheer for a winning team or an underdog?

Discussion

Examine/Observe:

1. Look over Hebrews chapter 11. How many times is the word, "faith," mentioned?

2. Hebrews chapter 11 lists many "heroes of the faith." Look over their names. Do you recognize them? Are there any you aren't familiar with? Take a moment to look them up in a searchable Bible app.

3. Pastor Mark highlighted verses 5-6 of Hebrews 11. According to these verses, how do we please God?

Interpretation/Application:

4. Read Hebrews 11:1-2. Pastor Mark described faith as "visualizing God's preferred future in the present." What helps you to visualize God's preferred future? What guidelines would you suggest for this practice?

5. Read Hebrews 11:4 and 2 Corinthians 9:6-11. What do you think about giving by revelation instead of reason as Pastor Mark described? What method do you use to determine how much you should give?
6. Read Hebrews 11:7-8. Have you ever sensed God leading you to do something that didn't make sense? How did you respond? How open are

you to God asking you to step out in faith without knowing where it will lead? What are your current limits?

7. Read Hebrews 11:22. Pastor Mark contrasted "telling it like it is" with "speaking it the way God prefers it to be." Which are you more inclined toward? Do you believe your words matter? [For further study about words, see Matthew 12:33-37.]

8. Read Hebrews 11:24-27. How do you sustain your faith to keep persevering when you don't feel like it?

9. Read Hebrews 11:30. Pastor Mark pointed out that the walls of Jericho fell after the Israelites raised their voices in praise and thanksgiving. What can you thank God for today, before you see it happen?

10. Read Hebrews 11:32-40. It's hard to understand what God is doing when we stay faithful to God but bad things still happen and we are not delivered out of trouble. How do you keep faith in God when you face pain and difficulty?

Reflection:

Pastor Mark closed his sermon by referring to the words of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in Daniel chapter 3:17-18. We can walk through anything if we are convinced that God is with us, and we know Him. We will see the final result in heaven, where we will join all the saints including those listed in Hebrews 11.

"He who testifies to these things [Jesus] says, 'Yes, I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus." (Revelation 22:20)

Question 3: We please God when we live and walk by faith.

Question 4: Answers may vary but if no one says it, add that we should always be guided by/subject to the Word of God.

Question 8: Answers may include gathering together with other believers, listening to praise music, putting key scriptures/promises where you can see them, seeking wise counsel. Revelation 2&3 includes many promises to those who persevere in faith.