



C COMMUNITY Groups

May 14th/21st, 2017: WHERE TO GET HELP WHEN YOU HURT (Keith Langland)

OPENING

- What did you think of this week's message? What stood out to you? What challenged you?
- What comes to mind when you think of faith? How would you define it?

DISCUSS & APPLY

Read Hebrews 11:1-7

- According to v. 1, what is the difference between faith and hope? What do you think allows us to move from hope to faith?
- How is faith more than simply believing that God exists?
- What are some ways according to this passage that faith affects our behavior? How should it affect ours?
- Thinking about Cain and Abel, it becomes clear that it's possible to do the same religious activity with or without faith. What are the differences between the two? What are the consequences of each? How have you seen that in the present?
- Reread v.3. How does faith help us understand the world around us? How does the world around us impact our faith?
- The word "faith" is used many different ways in our culture. D. A. Carson points out that this word is often used to mean a "religious preference" or "belief without grounding in fact or truth." How does (or doesn't) that definition fit with the faith of Abel, Enoch, Noah and Abraham? (See, for instance, 11:11.) How does this definition aid or hinder discussing your faith with non-Christians?
- Why is faith essential to pleasing God? Why is faith an essential aspect of recovering from our hurts and habits? Why do you think it can be so hard to have faith?
- Do you have faith that God cares about your situation and can change it? If so, what would that fulfilled promise look like? If not, what's holding you back?

Read 1 Peter 1:6-9

- According to this passage, why does God allow challenges and crises to happen in our lives? Why is faith *that* important?
- This passage says that can we have indescribable joy even when life is miserable. How? Do you agree? Why or why not?
- What is the "outcome of our faith" in v.9? In what ways are we already receiving it? Why is faith continue to be important?
- Do your hurts and trials tend to make you more or less faithful? How is God trying to refine your faith right now?



FINAL APPLICATION

God cares about your situation, whatever it might be, and he has the power to change it. What is an unmanageable part of your life where you need God's help? Are you ready and willing to step towards God in faith, rather than away from him in pride?

PRAY

In groups of 2-3, ask God for more faith. As the man stated in Mark 9, say "I believe, help my unbelief." Pray specifically for the places in our lives that are unmanageable, where we are weak and hurting, and are in need of God's power and healing. Pray for God's help that we would move from simply hoping for salvation to being confident that we will receive it.