DIVING DEEPER DISCUSSION GUIDE



TEXT SUMMARY

In our text, <u>Hebrews 11:23-29</u>, the writer overviews five episodes in which the life of Moses portrays faith in the promises of God.

INTRODUCTION (OBSETVATION):

- **1.** What are the five episodes in Moses' life that illustrate God's people placing their hope in the promises of God? (Each episode begins with the phrase "by faith...")
- **2.** The theme of fear plays a prominent role in this text. What are the fears that God's people turned away from? What fear did they exhibit instead?
- **3.** The text expands slightly on Moses' decision to forego his privilege as a member of the royal household of Egypt. What reasons are given for his decision to refuse to be called the son of Pharoah's daughter? (See v. 25-26.)

DISCUSSION (INTERPRETATION):

- **1.** The chapter opens with the observation that faith is the ability to discern "things not seen" (v. 1). How do these episodes in the life of Moses illustrate that discernment?
- 2. Verse 25 tells us that Moses chose to suffer alongside the "people of God" rather than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a little while. His burning-bush encounter with Yahweh when God would announce Himself and His plan to rescue His people was still decades into the future. How could Moses have known that his enslaved kinfolk were the people of God?
- **3.** Verse 27 tells us that Moses was able to look past his fear of the king of Egypt because he discerned something more significant. What does it mean that Moses "endured as seeing him who is invisible"?
- **4.** In verse 28, the writer uses the name "Christ" in a surprising way. He surely doesn't mean that Moses knew who Jesus was. Why do you think he uses the name "Christ" to describe Moses' decision to leave his privilege in Pharaoh's household?

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SO WHAT? (APPLICATION):

- 1. There is a saying that the man who fears God need fear nothing else.
 - Over the years, what are some of the fears that have crowded into your mind that distract you from the fear of God?
 - What are some of the ways you've managed those fears successfully? ...unsuccessfully?
- 2. The text makes much of Moses' decision to endure suffering with God's people rather than "enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin" (v. 25). Have you ever had to make a conscious, deliberate choice between doing a hard thing in obedience to God rather than choosing an easier option?
 - What were some of the factors that played into that decision (e.g., your own personal welfare, the welfare of others you care for, reputation, financial implications, etc.)?
 - As you reflect on that decision now, is there anything you wish you had done differently?
- 3. Moses is said to have "endured as seeing him who is invisible" (v. 27).
 - Have you ever been in such a desperate situation that all hope was lost and all you could cling to is the promises of God?
 - How did you handle that crisis? What might you do differently now?
 - How did God prove Himself faithful to you and yours?