



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

*Week of February 12, 2023*

**Sermon:** "What Is Faith?"

**Text:** Hebrews 11:1-6

## SUMMARY

What is faith? The writer to the Hebrews gives the church a two-fold response, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Heb. 11:1) Faith is forward and future, it gives substance to our hope. Faith is why Christian hope is more than wishful thinking on a cosmic scale. Faith is also holistic and demonstrative. Faith pulls events of the witnessed (testified) past through to the unseen events that belong to God's promised future. Faith in this way is living in this moment between God's faithful past, and his promised future.

## FOR GROUPS

The range of meaning of the word "faith" includes both belief and devotion/loyalty. How do your beliefs about God shape your actual relationship with God?

Why is Christian hope more than just wishful thinking on a cosmic scale?

How does faith give substance, or a sense of reality, to hope? Can you give a personal example?

How has God shown himself to be faithful to you in the past? How does God's past faithfulness ground your faith in the present?

Which of God's future promises seem too far-off, obtuse, or unrealistic to you in this season of life? Which of God's future promises do you cherish and anticipate?

How does faith inform our understanding of reality and the created world around us? How can you encourage someone who doesn't see the world the same way?

How are you tempted to believe that clarity or intensity of your faith is the grounds by which you are accepted by God? How does the gospel answer that moment?

In verse 6, why do you think the writer includes the phrase, "and that he rewards those who seek him?" How does that phrase encourage you to press on in faith and the desire to please God?