

FAITH

Opening Announcements

Opening Prayer

Q: What IS "faith"?

Q: Why is "faith" important?

Q: How do you "see" faith in people's lives?

Table Time....

READ: Hebrews 11:1-2 "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

Q: What is "assurance" and "conviction"? How does THAT manifest in our life?

Q: According to verse 2, what was the "fruit" of faith? What is a "commendation"?

(Side note: The word "commendation" in the Greek is "emartyrethesan" which comes from the root word: "martyreo": "testify, bear witness")

READ: Matthew 7:21-23 "'Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' ²³ And then will I declare to them, '**I never knew you;** depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.' "

Q: In this scary passage above, according to verse 23, what was Jesus' "commendation" about these people?

Digging Deeper: READ Matthew 25:31-46. What is the "commendation" of the sheep? Goats? How does this relate to Matthew 7 above?

Q: According to Hebrews 3:3 (above), what is ONE thing, Christians have "faith" in? Why is that important? Where do we get our information?

READ: Romans 10:17 "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. "

Q: Where does "faith" come from?

Q: What does "hearing" mean?

Q: So what does this teach us about the Word of Christ?

Big Group Debrief...

Q: What are practical ways to approach the Bible? (Share what works for you)

Q: Is "frequency" important?

Q: What is the role of study when approaching the Bible?

Q: How can reading scripture with others be helpful?

Q: How can reading scripture privately be helpful?

READ: Joshua 1:8 "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."

Q: Why did God tell Joshua to "meditate" of "This Book of the Law"? What was the "frequency" God commanded?

Q: What is our "natural tendency"?

Q: What dynamics begin to happen when you have a "habit"?

Q: What happens when you have a habit of "meditating" on God's Word and "being careful to do all that is written in it"?

Q: How have YOU seen God's "prosperity" and "good success" happening in your life because of God's promise?

Q: What happens when you "don't"?

HOMEWORK:

Continue the Daily Bible Reading Plan in Psalm 119.

Consider journaling as a way to "meditate" on God's Word.

Consider scripture memory as a discipline.