

R U N
are you in?

LifeGroups
get connected.

TRANSFORMATION

"And we... are being transformed into His likeness."

2 Corinthians 3:18

CHETS TOP 5

Mexico
Mission Team
Commissioning
Today all three services
Trip Date: July 31st -
August 7th

LifeGroup
Promotion Sunday
Sunday, August 1st

Interested in
Serving
Check out the worship
folder for more info.

C.L.A.S.S. 101-401
Sunday, August 1st
5:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Save the Date:
Chets Chicks
Women's Retreat
October 1st & 2nd



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CHURCH

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Volume XI No. 28

Discussion Guide

Life Sentences - "Faith"

FOCUS: *To be able to define biblical faith in their own words and identify at least one way that they will be people of faith in the coming week.*

Hebrews 11:1-13 (NIV)

1. When you were a child what were some evidences of the trust that you had in your parents? How do your children show their trust in you?
2. How does the writer of Hebrews define faith? What does this mean? (v. 1)
3. In verses 1 and 6 what action words or phrases are used to describe faith?
4. What does the writer of Hebrews mean by the word "hope"?
 - a. Daydream
 - b. Wish
 - c. Longing or desire
 - d. Belief in God's promise for what he has already prepared for us
5. What might be some examples of things that we "hope for" or things that "we do not see?"
6. What does faith help us to comprehend about the creation of the world? (v. 3)
7. How did Abel demonstrate his faith?
8. What was unusual about Enoch? What do you think was pleasing to God about Enoch's life? Does pleasing God simply mean being a moral person and doing all of the right things?
9. What did Noah's faith compel him to do?
10. Where did Abraham's faith compel him to go? (v. 8-11)
11. If faith is being sure of what we hope for, what was Abraham's hope? (v. 10)
12. What did God enable Abraham and Sarah to do, even though they were old? (v. 11)
13. If "hope" means "believing that God is faithful in fulfilling His promise," what was the hope of Abraham and Sarah? (v. 12)
14. Why did the writer of Hebrews feel it significant to include the fact that "these people did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance?"
15. In what ways did these "heroes of the faith" sacrifice and suffer because of their faith?

Read Thru the Bible

"How sweet your words taste to me; they are sweeter than honey. Your commandments give me understanding; no wonder I hate every false way of life. Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."

Psalm 119:103-105

July	Old Testament	New Testament	Psalm	Proverbs
25	1 Chron 29:1-2 Chron 1:17	Acts 21:7-29	88:1-9	18:18-19
26	2 Chron 2:1-4:22	Acts 21:30-22:10	88:10-18	18:20-21
27	2 Chron 5:1-6:42	Acts 22:11-30	89:1-10	18:22
28	2 Chron 7:1-8:18	Acts 23:1-22	89:11-18	18:23-24
29	2 Chron 9:1-10:19	Acts 23:23-24:9	89:19-29	19:1-3
30	2 Chron 11:1-13:22	Acts 24:10-27	89:30-37	19:4-5
31	2 Chron 14:1-16:14	Acts 25:1-22	89:38-45	19:6-7
1	2 Chron 17:1-18:34	Acts 25:23-26:18	89:46-52	19:8-9

LifeGroup Prayer Requests:

"You are not responsible for everyone in the church family - but you are responsible to them. So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you'll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind."

1 Thessalonians 5:11

LOOKING TOWARD NEXT SUNDAY

Heaven - Revelation 21:1-22:5

To explore John's description of the Holy City and identify practical ways that you can live out the hope and encouragement that we find in John's description.

MONDAY - JULY 26, 2010

Read Revelation 21:1-8: Fellowship with God

1Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." (not all verses printed due to space)

In Revelation 20, John talks about books that were opened in Heaven. At the end of the chapter John indicates that those whose names were not written in the book of life were thrown into the lake of fire – the second death. Chapter 21 begins with a description of the destination of those whose names were listed in the book of life.

- What did John see coming down out of heaven from God?
- When John wrote this he was exiled on the Island of Patmos. What do you think that the sea represented for John? What is significant in John's statement, "there is no longer any sea?"
- In these verses God promises to "dwell with us." In what ways is that meaningful to you?
- What will life be like in heaven?

TUESDAY - JULY 27, 2010

Read Revelation 21:9-14: The New Jerusalem

9One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." 10And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. 11It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. 12It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. 13There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. 14The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

John begins a detailed description of the New Jerusalem

- List some of the spectacular features of the city that John saw.
- What was the significance of the high wall?
- How many gates were there? What was written on the gates?
- How many foundations did the wall have? What was written on the foundations?

WEDNESDAY - JULY 28, 2010

Read Revelation 21:15-21: Measuring the City

15The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. 16The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long. 17He measured its wall and it was 144 cubits thick, by man's measurement, which the angel was using. 18The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. 19The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, 20the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. 21The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass.

John's description of the New Jerusalem is designed to present the picture of a city with strong foundations. It is spacious and perfect in every way. In this beautiful city God will live with His children in perfect fellowship.

- What is the size of the city? Of what is it constructed?
- Read Ezekiel 48:30-35. How does it compare to John's measurement and description? What is the significance of the name given to the city in Ezekiel 48?
- What do you know about how a pearl is made? Why is it significant that the gates of the Holy City are gigantic pearls?

THURSDAY - JULY 29, 2010

Read Revelation 21:22-27: The Lord is There

22I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. 24The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. 25On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. 26The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. 27Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

In these verses John completes his description of the Holy City. Many things that we deem essential are not necessary because God is there.

- Thinking about the strains and difficulties under which John's first-century readers lived, what would have been especially impressive about the New Jerusalem?
- List the things that John says will not be needed in the New Jerusalem.
- Who will live in the city?
- What must be different about believers when they enter the city?

FRIDAY - JULY 30, 2010

Read Revelation 22:1-5: God's Provision

1Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. 3No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. 4They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

In this passage John describes a garden that is within the New Jerusalem

- What was growing on each side of the river of life? When did this tree bear fruit? Of what value were the leaves of the tree?
- Read Genesis 2 and 3. From what tree did Adam and Eve eat when they disobeyed God? What tree did God send cherubim with a flaming sword to protect?
- What is the significance of seeing God's face? Of having God's name on their foreheads?
- What does this passage tell us about God?