



There is no subject of greater importance to living as a follower of Jesus Christ than faith. That's why the teaching contained in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews is among the greatest in the Bible. Here we find explained and illustrated some of the most pressing questions: What is faith? How do we get faith? What are faith's benefits? What are faith's trials and obligations? Particularly in our present day, when counterfeit faiths abound, a study of authentic faith is essential if we are going to stand on solid ground.ⁱ

Discussion Questions: (Leaders please review each question and pick those that will be most beneficial for your group.)

1. Read Hebrews 11:30-31. These verses teach us two specific ways that **authentic faith in the Lord always delivers**. From Hebrews 11:30 we learn that **authentic faith in the Lord delivers us from our enemies**. What was God trying to demonstrate by having the people march around the walls for seven days? What does this teach us about obeying God's word even when we don't understand it?
2. Looking at your own life what is your "Jericho"? What does God's word have to say about how you find deliverance from your situation? Why doesn't God grant instant deliverance from all our problems? Why do some last for years, even a lifetime? Even if you do not see your circumstance change immediately, will you accept and obey God's word, trusting he has already delivered you?
3. According to Hebrews 11:31, we learn that **authentic faith in the Lord delivers you from God's judgment for sin**. What makes Rahab deserving of God's judgment? What makes you and me deserving of God's judgment?
4. When God brings destruction on Jericho he spares Rahab, why? According to James 2:25 how did she prove the genuineness of her saving faith? Does your obedience to the Lord reveal that you have real authentic saving faith or counterfeit faith? If not, what are you going to do about this?
5. In addition to rescue from Jericho's destruction, what does the scarlet cord in Rahab's window signify? How much more does the communion point back to the death and resurrection of Jesus and point forward to the consummation of our deliverance when our Lord returns? How will knowing this help you remember the Lord's deliverance from your enemies and your sins each time we celebrate it despite how you feel?

ⁱ Richard D. Phillips, Faith Victorious: finding strength and hope from Hebrews 11 (Phillipsburg, New Jersey: P & R Publishing Co. 2002) ix.