



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.<sup>i</sup>

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

1. Read Hebrews 11:4. Looking back at Genesis 4:1-8, explain the difference between the sacrifices brought by Cain and Abel. Why was one accepted by God and the other rejected by God?
2. Hebrews 11:4b says, "By faith he (Abel) was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his sacrifice." What is the difference between justification by faith and justification by works? Which one does God accept?
3. Why do those like Cain, who are self-righteous, get angry with God and jealous of others, especially those who accept and act on God's revelation of his prescribed sacrifice? What does 1 John 3:12-13 say about this?
4. If you died today and stood before God and he asked you "On what basis should I accept you into my kingdom?" what would you say?
5. According to Hebrews 11:4c, even though he is dead, Abel's life still speaks today. What does the message of his life declare?
6. Looking at your life, what message does your life declare? Is it the same message Abel's life declares? If not, what changes do you need to make today so that your life points others to Jesus?

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