



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.¹

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

1. Read Hebrews 11:17-19 and Genesis 22:1-19. Hebrews 11:17 and Genesis 22:1 say that "God tested Abraham." If you follow Jesus Christ then your faith will also be tested. This does not mean that God tempts us to sin (James 1:13). Looking at the follow passages that tell us God tests his people (Exodus 16:4, Duet 8:2, Judges 2:22, Proverbs 17:3, Hebrews 12:10, James 1:2-4, & 1 Peter 1:7), what is the purpose of God's tests in the lives of those who follow him?
2. God tested Abraham because he wanted to be certain that Abraham feared and loved him more than he loved his "only son Isaac" (Gen. 22:2). The reason we need to have our faith tested is that we easily turn God's blessings into idols. What are the signs that someone or something other than the Lord has become the center of your life?
3. Looking at Hebrews 11:17-18 and Genesis 22:1-19, we discover the way God's tests work. You can be certain God is testing you when his command to obey his word leads to death (of a promise, dream, hope, relationship, desire, etc.) and the only way through it requires some kind of resurrection. Can you think of a time when you faced a test from God? What is the most difficult test you have faced?
4. Abraham passed God's test and obeyed because he had faith that God *will* provide the sacrificial lamb (Gen. 22:8). Hebrews 11:19 tells us that Abraham's story is a parable that points us to another Father who really did sacrifice his Son and this Son really did rise from the dead. What test are you facing today? How will you obey God's word, by faith in the Lamb God *has* provided? If God the Father, out of love for you, sacrificed everything for you, how can you not give up everything out of love for him?

¹ Richard D. Phillips, Faith Victorious: finding strength and hope from Hebrews 11 (Phillipsburg, New Jersey: P & R Publishing Co. 2002) ix.