Authentic Faith **Authentic faith chooses God's Plan**
August 5, 2012 **Hebrews 11:20-22**

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. In your own words explain the difference between God's sovereign will and his revealed will. Does the truth that God has a sovereign will mean we don't make real choices? Explain.

2. Read Hebrews 11:20-22. From these three people we learn that **authentic faith chooses God's revealed plan over our present circumstances**. We see this in the life of Isaac. Looking at Genesis 27:27-40, what were his present circumstances and how did Isaac choose God's plan over his present circumstances?

3. We see this in the life of Jacob. Looking at Genesis 48:18—22 and Genesis 47:31, what were Jacob's present circumstances, how did he choose God's plan over his present circumstances?

4. We see this in the life of Joseph. Looking at Genesis 50:24-25, what were his present circumstances? How did he choose God's plan over his present circumstances?

5. Isaac, Jacob and Joseph chose to trust God's revealed plan over their present circumstances. What plan has God revealed to us? How is this plan similar to the one he revealed to them? How does Jesus Christ guarantee that God's revealed plan will prevail?

6. What are your present circumstances like? Will you choose your present circumstances or will you choose God's revealed plan over your present circumstance by faith in Jesus Christ? What will this look like?

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