



DISCUSSION GUIDE

"LONGING FOR HOME"

GETTING STARTED

What does "home" mean to you? In what way does the reality that Christ has made for us an "eternal" home inform your attachments to this world, or should it impact how you live now? What do you consider the greatest example of faith you have ever seen? Why?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

In what way does our longing for "home" reveal that we were made for another world (ie heaven)?

How does Hebrews 8:5-6 speak to the truth that even the things that God intended for our good (in the OT), the priestly system and worship in the temple only a shadow of what is real?

In what way is this true in terms of our relationship with God? What can we mistake as permanent?

How does knowing that in Christ we are made for another "country", satisfy our disappointments in this life?

What would it look like for us to live as if we are travelers? A traveler that has not yet reached your destination, a traveler that has decided to never return "home" and that Heaven is your homeland?

How would it inform how you live? How you love? What truly satisfies?

What does it mean for you this Christmas to know that Home is not just a place, but it is a Person?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Hebrews 11:1-6]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

What is faith? (11:1)

What does faith help us to comprehend about the creation of the world? (11:3)

How did Abel demonstrate faith? (11:4)

What was unusual about Enoch? (11:5)

What role does faith play in approaching and pleasing God? (11:6)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

According to this passage, what is the only way we can please God with our lives?

What prompts committed followers of Christ to continue to exercise faith even when you don't reach "the promised land?"

Why do you think the author said that "the world was not worthy of" the heroes of faith mentioned in Hebrews 11?

How do you think the individuals praised in Hebrews 11 were looked upon by those of their day? How would seeing yourself as a "foreigner", "alien", a traveler in this world transform what is important?

What does it mean for you that those mentioned in this chapter refused to long for a country that they knew they could never go back to? That they were looking for a better place...a heavenly homeland?

React to this old saying, "There are some people that are so heavenly minded that they are no earthly good, and there are those that are so earthly minded they are no heavenly good? What is the difference? How do we live in the tension?"

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in these passages?

What do you need to stop, start or do differently as a result of reading this passage?

How can we pray for each other?