**Real Faith (2 of 3): Understanding**

* **GOALS & GUIDELINS:**
* **ICEBREAKER: Finish this sentence** “I’ll never understand why…” [Leader: Try to be light hearted]
* **AGREEMENT PRAYER:**
* **PRAISE:**
* **EDIFICATION:**  Read Scripture Hebrews 11:1-3, Acts 8:26-29

**Q- Life can be complicated. What are some things that are complicating your life right now?**

We are complicated people living in a complicated world. Faith is actually uncomplicated. We try to make it more complicated that it really is. We read it just now… “Faith is confidence in what we hope for.” It is “assurance about what we do not see.”

**Q- Is that complicated? Why do we make faith so complicated?**

Last week we agreed that Faith will always march us into the Unknown/Un-seen. Faith is simply being confident enough to talk that walk into the Unknown. Faith **does not mean** you aren’t worried about the situation! The Unknown always worries us! Faith **does not mean** you are certain of the outcome. Faith **does not mean** you don’t have questions, because we all absolutely do have questions!! Faith simply means you believe… you trust enough to walk straight into the unknown.

**Q- Why does God keep us in the dark? Why doesn’t he just show me everything that is going to happen?**

 **Do you ever feel this way? Have you ever asked these questions? What do you think?**

A young man in Acts 8 named Philip received word from an Angel. The Angel says “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” … And that was ALL HE SAID! He didn’t say how far to go. He didn’t say why he should go. Simply go into the middle of the dessert…

Philip had every right in the world to question. He certainly had a right to delay this trip, but he didn’t. He marches clueless out into the middle of the dessert. Philip then sees an Ethiopian in a chariot and THEN he hears from God what to do next. “The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”’

Long story short… Philip shares the Gospel. Baptizes Ethiopian. Philip gets Translated (Beamed up) to another town. Cool stuff that never would have happened had Philip not obeyed.

Real Faith brings about situations that we just DON’T UNDERSTAND! But if we walk by faith into the unknown God will bring Understanding. It wasn’t until he saw the Ethiopian in the chariot that Philip understood!

**Q- Tell us about a time you walked by faith and God brought you Understanding.**

Hebrews 11:3 By faith **we understand** that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

The world is made by invisible things! We call them Atoms. The atom wasn’t proved by science until the 19th Century, but here the writer of Hebrews tells about the invisible building block in the 1st Century. Wow! The writer of Hebrews UNDERSTOOD it BY FAITH 1800 years before science. **THERE ARE SOMETHINGS WE WILL ONLY UNDERSTAND BY FAITH!**

We want to understand before we obey. This isn’t faith. Faith is obeying even though you don’t understand. It is through obedience that we will come to understand a lot about God and ourselves.

**{Internal} Q- Are you willing to walk into the unknown like Philip? Maybe God has been telling you to walk? Even though you don’t understand, are you willing to follow God? {Pray for your group}**

* **Vision:** This week I want you to keep coming back to Hebrews 11:3… **By faith we understand.**

Worry more about your faith than your understanding! By Faith you will understand.

Goals and Guidelines

1. Grow in relationship with each other
2. Grow in relationship with God
3. Grow in number and multiply

 This is a non-denominational meeting where everyone's thoughts, ideas, and opinions are to be respected. Everyone is welcome and we encourage all to share their feelings.

We will not argue or debate!

We place God's Word as the highest authority.

We all share equally in the ownership of this Connect Group*,* therefore we will all participate in hosting meetings from house to house on a weekly basis.

We will be committed to attendance and arriving on time.

When sharing, we follow 3 simple rules...
Stay on subject
Keep it short
Keep all comments appropriate.

We will build confidence and trust with each other and become transparent.

What is said in here stays in here. No gossip!

Last but not least… We will invite others to our Connect Group!

**Hebrews 11:1-3**

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for.

 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

**Acts 8:26-29**

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” 27 So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian… who was sitting in his chariot… 29 The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”