

### What is Faith?

**Intro:** Martin Luther went to the mat for his statement "Sola Fide," or "Faith Alone." From that moment on, the word "faith" has been one of the most misunderstood words in the Christian faith. Some denominations seem to teach that faith=assenting to the facts of Jesus' death and resurrection. However, the Scriptures seem to teach that faith is a lot more than ascribing to a belief system - at least when measured against the power that someone with faith is supposed to have. This week you will have an opportunity to take a look at the biblical definition of faith and to decide for yourself what you believe "faith" is. As you do, you will learn to articulate what faith is, but even more, you will learn what it means to articulate that faith. Hint: it's more than just words.

**What the Bible Teaches:** Break into Groups of Four, read the following Bible verses, and discuss the questions. You may want to jot down notes and thoughts on the back of this page.

#### What is the biblical definition of "faith" according to these Scriptures?

Hebrews 11:1; Acts 6:7; 1 Corinthians 12:8-9 *Are all three of these definitions consistent with your understanding of faith?*

#### What are the identifying marks of faith?

John 14:12; Romans 3:22; Galatians 3:26-27; James 2:14-20; Romans 10:17; Philemon 1:6

#### What was Paul's instructions to the church in regard to faith?

2 Corinthians 13:5-6 *How do you measure up? What are you going to do about it?*

**What I Believe:** Take ten minutes for silent reflection and thought. Ask yourself what you believe about faith. Use the back of this page to formulate a response to the question:

**"What is Faith?"**

Write your final response here: \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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**Articulations:** Pair up with one other person and share your response with one another. Take five minutes each. Try to *not* look at your written statement; instead, try to tell your beliefs from your heart. This will prepare you to share whenever you are asked about what you believe.

**Therefore:** Jesus said His followers should Go and make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). One of the first steps in making disciples is being ready and able to share the reason for the hope we have (1 Peter 3:15), in other words, knowing what we believe, why, and then being able to share it. Sharing your faith is important. This week, find someone—it can be *anyone*—and articulate your belief about this issue. If you have an unchurched/unreached friend whom you can share with, all the better (you can always say you have a homework assignment from church and you'd like to share it with them). Be ready to talk about your experience next week over the meal at your House Church.