

Discipleship Challenges for Kingdom Builders

This is the first in a six part series, which focuses on the different discipleship challenges that Christians face in their lives. This bible study draws from Nick Hudson's sermon on 20/1/2008 and is a series of readings and questions. The questions have some suggested discussion prompts (listed by a series of bullet points) to help the conversation to flow.

If you are using these questions for a weekly session please use all of the questions. For a fortnightly session please only use the questions in highlighted in italics.

Read *Hebrews Ch11 v 8 – 16* & *Genesis Ch 12 v 1-8*

1. What was Abraham's (Abram's) calling from God?

- Genesis Ch12 Verse 1

2. What was God's promise to Abraham?

- Great nation
- Blessing
- Be on Abraham's side
- To give Abraham the promised land.

3. *What do you think it means to "live by faith" and do you feel you "live by faith"?*

- *Trusting God for everything*
- *Believing the promises of God according to the Bible*
- *Not worrying (birds)*

In verse 13 we read that Abraham understood himself to be an alien on earth (not a green monster but rather a foreigner!)

4. *What did Abraham long for in v16?*

- *Heavenly country*

5. *What do you long for? What is your focus? Is this different to your friends or work colleagues? Why is this difference important?*

- *Makes us stand out and prompts curiosity about the Christian faith.*

Read Matthew Ch 6 v 19 – 24

6. What are your most treasured possessions?

- Think about - don't have to reveal deepest secrets!

7. What does v 19 - 20 say we should be storing up?

Some suggested answers –

- Treasures in heaven
- Not treasures on earth.

8. What do you think the writer means when he refers to “treasures in heaven”?

Suggested answers –

- Living your life in the way God wants you to.
- Being filled with the Holy Spirit (exhibiting the fruits of the Spirit)
- Having a relationship with God
- Being focussed on the “Kingdom of Heaven”
- Valuing the things of God.

Read Hebrews Ch 12 v 1-2

9. Why should we fix our eyes on Jesus?

Some suggested answers –

- *Jesus said follow me – in his teaching and example.*
- *Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sin.*
- *He can help us persevere, through the Holy Spirit.*

10. Think about running in a race. What would slow you down? What helps you to focus on the race?