

Life Group Discussion Guide

Faith Comes by Hearing

Key Scriptures

Romans 10:17 — “Faith comes by hearing...” **Matthew 17:20** — Faith as small as a mustard seed **Hebrews 11:1** — Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Start the Conversation

When you hear the word **faith**, what do you instinctively think it requires from you?

1. Faith Begins with Hearing

The sermon began with Romans 10:17: “**Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.**” It is easy to turn faith into something we must produce or measure. We can start “counting” what we have done — how much we have prayed, read our Bible, served or obeyed. We can measure how hard we are trying, what our circumstances look like, how confident we feel, or whether the outcome is what we hoped for. But Romans 10 points us in a different direction. Faith begins with hearing what God has revealed — who He is, what He has done and what He has said — and then responding to Him. Instead of constantly looking inward and asking whether we have enough faith, we are invited to look towards God and know Him.

- Where do you find yourself trying to **measure** or produce enough faith?
- What could it look like to spend less energy examining your faith and more energy **knowing God**?

2. Little Faith, Big Mountains

In Matthew 17:20 Jesus speaks about faith as small as a mustard seed and mountains moving. We can easily hear that and focus on whether our faith is big enough. The sermon described the pattern as looking first at our **big mountain**, then at our **little faith**, and concluding that we need to somehow create more faith. But the focus needs to shift to our **big God**. Jesus is not asking us to produce an impressive amount of faith so that God can act. The power is not in the size of the seed; the power belongs to the God in whom our faith is placed. Over time we may see God move some mountains. Other mountains may remain, and God gives us the strength to climb them. Either way, our confidence is meant to rest in Him.

- What “mountain” are you facing at the moment?
- What changes when we move from “**Is my faith big enough?**” to “**Is God trustworthy?**”?
- Can you think of a time when God did not remove a difficulty but gave you strength to walk through it?

3. Faith Is Trust

The Greek word translated as faith in these passages is **pistis**, which carries the sense of faith, trust, confidence and reliance. The sermon used the picture of trust in a close relationship: we do not become better at trusting someone simply by trying harder to trust them. Trust grows as we know them, experience their character and discover that they are trustworthy. The same shift can happen in our relationship with God. Instead of putting all our energy into trying to build stronger faith, we can put that energy into seeking God’s face — spending time with Him, listening to His

Word, learning His character and remembering His faithfulness. The more we know Him, the more we discover that He can be trusted.

- How does knowing someone's character affect your ability to trust them? How is this true in our relationship with God?
- What would it practically look like for you to seek God's face rather than only seeking His hand to change your circumstances?

4. Ordinary People, Faithful God

Hebrews 11 is often called the "Hall of Faith," but the people in it were not spiritual superheroes. Abraham had moments of fear, Sarah laughed, Moses argued with God and Gideon needed reassurance. They were ordinary, imperfect people with questions and weaknesses. Yet a pattern runs through their stories: **God spoke, they heard Him, trusted Him and responded.** Noah was warned and built. Abraham was called and went. Sarah received a promise and trusted. Hebrews 11:11 says that Sarah "**considered Him faithful who had made the promise.**" That line captures the heart of the message. Their confidence was not in their own ability to have perfect faith; it was in the faithfulness of God. The true hero of Hebrews 11 is God — the God who speaks, calls, promises, leads and remains faithful.

- What do you notice about the pattern: **God speaks → people hear → trust → respond?**
- Is there something you sense God asking you to trust Him with or respond to right now?

5. When the Mountain Doesn't Move

Hebrews 11 includes people who conquered kingdoms, saw promises fulfilled and experienced remarkable deliverance. But it also includes people who suffered, were persecuted and did not see everything they hoped for in their lifetime. Hebrews describes both groups as people of faith. That means faith cannot simply be measured by whether the outcome we prayed for happened. Sometimes God moves the mountain. Sometimes He gives us strength to climb it. And sometimes He asks us to keep walking with Him while it is still there. The mountain may not become smaller, but as we know God more deeply, whether it moves begins to matter differently because our confidence was never meant to be in the mountain moving. **Our confidence is in the God who is with us in front of it.**

- Have you ever associated an unanswered prayer or unchanged circumstance with not having enough faith?
- What would it look like to trust God whether He moves the mountain, gives you strength to climb it, or asks you to keep walking with Him while it remains?

This Week — Hear. Trust. Respond.

The invitation of the sermon is not to stop growing in faith, but to put our effort in the right place. Rather than trying harder to believe, we intentionally seek to know the One we believe in. The pattern is simple: **hear God, trust Him, and respond.**

Hear: Spend intentional time in Scripture seeking to know God, not only looking for an answer to a problem.

Trust: Name one truth about God's character that you need to remember this week.

Respond: Take one practical step in response to what you believe God is saying.

Closing Prayer

Father, help us to stop measuring the size of our faith and fixing our eyes on the size of our mountains. Teach us to seek Your face, know Your character and remember Your faithfulness. Help us to hear You, trust You and respond when You speak. Whether You move the mountain, give us strength to climb it, or ask us to keep walking with You while it remains, may our confidence be in You. You are good, faithful and trustworthy. Amen.