

Eyes of Faith

Hebrews 11: 1-3

1-25-15

1. Last week Pastor Jim asked all of us to spend some time looking back at our life, looking forward, and looking again with the eyes of faith for, "You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised" (Hebrews 10:36). Spend some time in your group sharing some of the ways God has showed that He has been faithful in the past and in your current situation.
2. To illustrate the power of faith, we considered a part of Elisha's journey with God. An adversary, the king of Syria was coming to put an end to Elisha and his service to God. Elisha's servant saw the king's army drawing near and was filled with fear, while Elisha remained strong and steadfast. Their reactions to the same situation were exact opposites. What did Elisha see that his servant didn't? Why? If needed, look back at 2 Kings 6: 15-17.
3. Hebrews 11: 3 says, "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." Reflect on this verse with your group. What was God's intention from creation in relation to faith in Him? How did God give us insight in His word as to how He works in this world?
4. Pastor Jim shared that faith is a way of seeing things that are normally invisible, and he gave the example of love. We can't see when someone loves us, but do have evidence through our interaction with them. What evidence in your daily life can you see by faith that confirms your hope in God's presence and faithfulness?
5. Read Psalm 42 with your group. Clearly, the psalmist is struggling, but what does he tell his soul to do? And why does he tell his soul to do it? This psalm reminds us that we can and should cry out to God when we are struggling; which is an act of faith! We can have the assurance that we "will yet praise Him".
6. Spend some time in prayer with your group. Start with praising God for the gift of faith. Then as Elisha's did for his servant, and the psalmist for his soul, ask the Lord to strengthen your faith in Him and His promises. Ask Him to help you surrender to His leading by faith, and not simply by sight.