



Week 1, Week starting 1 May 2006

Building God's People

Building a great life series: A life of faith and service

Pray

If you were not at church last Sunday please listen to the talk (downloadable from www.christiansinthemedia.org/downloads or subscribe to our talk feed on itunes). Talks will be up on the web late on Sunday night or early Monday morning to allow any who missed church to listen before the weekly discussion group.

A Life of Faith: Looking back to last Sunday (spend about half your time on this)

Re read Hebrews 11:1-12:2 As you reflect back on Dominic's talk last Sunday 'Building a life of faith' what points particularly struck you? Where were you particularly challenged to change your thinking?

1 Without faith it is impossible to please God

2 The Bible's hall of faith

- a **Enoch** – Faith is essential to please God 11:5-6, Genesis 5:18-24
- b **Abel** – Faith involves a right heart 11:4, Genesis 4
- c **Noah** – Faith involves trusting God about the future, against appearances – 11:7, Genesis 6-9
- d **Abraham** –
 - i Faith involves trusting God's promise 11:11-12
 - i Faith involves risky obedience 11:8-10
 - iii Faith may cost what is most precious 11:17-19
- e **Joseph** – Faith involves looking to the future 11:22

f **Moses** – Faith involves perseverance and courage 11:24-27

g **Joshua** – Faith may look crazy 11:30

h **Rahab** – Faith requires a decision 11:31, Joshua 2:8-11

3 Faith today 11:1-3, 13-16, 39-40

a Looking back 11:3

b Looking forward 11:1-2, 13-16, 39-40

4 So what should I do? How to build a life of faith now?

a Throw off ... 12:1

b Fix ... 12:2

c Consider ... 12:3

Spend some time reflecting and discussing what is that hinders and entangles in your life? 12:1

How can we better fix our eyes on Jesus? 12:2

How can you correct your temptation to grow weary or loose heart by 'considering Him'? 12:3

Pray for each other that we might: Throw off., Fix our eyes and Consider Him.

A Life of Service: Looking forward to this week (spend about half your time on this)

Spend some time brainstorming about what acts of service are performed by various members of our church family. (Think widely and of the less visible activities as well!)

Before we talk about us doing future acts of service we need to get our attitude right. Read Philippians 2:1-11 Contrast the attitude of Christ Jesus with the attitude of Whitney Houston as spelt out in her song 'Hero'.

Whitney Houston
Everybody searching for a hero
People need someone to look up to
I never found anyone to fulfill my needs
A lonely place to be
So I learned to depend on me

I decided long ago
Never to walk in anyone's shadows
If I fail, if I succeed
At least I will live as I believe
No matter what they take from me

They can't take away my dignity

Chorus:
Because the greatest love of all
Is happening to me
I found the greatest love of all
Inside of me
The greatest love of all
Is easy to achieve
Learning to love yourself
It is the greatest love of all

Discuss how we can have attitudes towards service more like Jesus and less like Whitney?

Pray!