

LIFE Group Discussion Questions  
Hebrews 6:11-20 – Holding Fast to Hope  
Week of Nov. 15-21, 2009

Summary: The preacher continues his pastoral encouragement from last week (vv. 9-12). To a congregation facing public humiliation, the plundering of their property, imprisonment, and possible martyrdom, the preacher gives his congregation hope through the example of Abraham, and the person of Jesus.

After stating his desire that his congregation would have “the full assurance of hope until the end,” and calling them to be “imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises” (v. 12), the preacher gives them an example to imitate in Abraham. Abraham, who both believed God’s promise of a son, and had to wait patiently for 25 years to get one, is an example of both faith and patience. The emphasis is both on Abraham’s belief as well as on God’s trustworthiness, who both promises and vows to do what He said he will. For God’s people hope is not a feeling, but is Jesus – the one who provides both stability and certainty for his followers. The text encourages all Christians, those persecuted in small and large ways to believe God’s promise, and wait patiently as they cling to the objective evidence of its fulfillment in Jesus.

General questions:

1. What grabbed your attention the most?
2. What was the big idea as you heard it?
3. What questions did it bring to your mind or leave unanswered?

Specifics:

4. The story of Abraham’s life (Gen. 12-25) is so familiar to many Christians that it fails to amaze them, however, it is an amazing example of faith for those facing difficult circumstances. How is his story an encouragement to Christians suffering around the world? What about to you?
5. The writer makes the point that God’s promise *to* Abraham, is ultimately a promise *for* us. Is it difficult to believe that God’s promises to Christians in the past, are promises for Christians like you in the present? Why or why not?
5. Patience is a virtue with which many of us struggle. Why is it so hard for us to wait in general? Why is it so hard to wait on God?
6. Has waiting ever caused you to doubt or question God’s character?
7. For this preacher, hope is not a feeling, rather hope is Jesus. How does this compare with the way people often use the word “hope”?
8. By telling his audience to “hold fast” he is telling them to cling to Jesus. Practically speaking, what does it mean for you to cling to Jesus? If an unbeliever were to ask you, how would you describe it?
9. How has Jesus provided stability in your own life?
9. The congregation who received this “sermon” was clearly a “persecuted church.” Do you think it is possible for those of us here in the U.S. to hear these words with the same impact? Why or why not?
10. All over the world our brothers and sisters are persecuted for loving and serving Jesus. Practically, is this something that impacts you personally? Should it? If so, how?

Rabbit Trail of the Week: Do you think Christians here in the states really suffer “persecution”? Either way, do you think greater persecution would help or hurt the church here in the U.S.?