

BIG GOD STUDY GUIDE

Chapter 1

WHEN MY HEART IS OVERWHELMED

In this first chapter, Britt recounts the story of his daughter, Daisy Love's, cancer and the experience for him and his wife, Kate, as they learned of her condition. In each moment of crisis, the first thought on their minds was "Jesus." Their knowledge of Scripture had shaped their hearts so they could cling fast to the promises of God through the most difficult season of their lives. The Word was a shield for their family, which enabled them to trust the plan of their Father and remain steadfast in loving Him above all else.

Britt's story, like each of the individuals recognized in Hebrews 11, demonstrates a faith proven firm through life's most trying moments. Britt and his family could trust God's character because they knew God's Word. They knew the stories exemplified in the Hall of Faith and had cultivated a relentless trust in the goodness of God that prepared them for this storm. In his darkest hour, Britt remained absolutely convinced that our God is big and that He is absolutely worthy of our faith.

1. When was a time when your heart was overwhelmed?

2. In a time of crisis for Britt and his wife, Kate, biblical precepts and passages immediately filled their minds and informed their response. Can you recall a situation in your life where Scripture came to mind and shaped your response?

Can you recall a situation where you would have reacted differently if your response had been framed by Scripture?

3. Psalm 119 describes the Word of God as a comfort (v. 50), a light (v. 105), and an instructor (vv. 97-99). Read these passages in Psalm 119, and then discuss how Scripture works in each of these ways.

4. On pages 19-20, Britt describes how “the word of God was like a shield against the schemes of the enemy.” Ephesians 6:16 instructs us to put on the shield of faith. How does knowing God’s Word protect us in the spiritual battles we face?

5. Psalm 61:2 says, “When my heart is overwhelmed, lead me to the rock that is higher than I.” How does Scripture literally lead us to the rock that is Jesus?

6. What are some of your favorite Scriptures that come immediately to mind in times of joy, sorrow, uncertainty or trouble?

How have these Scriptures shaped your heart and informed your mind specifically through difficult circumstances?

7. Choose 1 to 3 pieces of Scripture to memorize as an individual or group this week. When and how will these verses increase your faith in a big God?

8. On page 22, Britt paraphrases A.W. Tozer: “We can’t expect those without faith to understand the power of the Word because it is through faith that the Word is revealed.” How is it that the Word of God simultaneously increases faith as it is revealed through faith?

9. Read Psalm 62:5-8. What does this Scripture reveal about the nature of God, and what promises can we hold fast to as a result?

10. On page 25, Britt says, “He doesn’t promise us understanding. He promises us peace beyond understanding.” Apply this truth to Britt’s experience in the “Why Ask Why?” section. Why is having peace so much greater than having understanding? What does this truth mean for you personally?

11. On page 26, Britt says, “It takes more faith to endure Christ not healing your daughter than it does to see Him heal her.” Why is this so?

How do you view this statement in light of our Father’s work through Christ on the cross?

12. Have you ever experienced an affliction that was good for you, as Psalm 119:71 describes? If so, what made it good?

How did it make God’s truths more real to you?

13. Read the story of Peter on the beach in John 21:15-17, and then review page 31, “Putting Daisy on the Altar.” What things in your life compete for the place of your first love? What is your answer when Jesus asks, “Do you love Me more than this?”

Chapter 2

THE HALL OF FAITH?

Chapter 2 introduces us to Hebrews’ Hall of Faith and an ancient group of ordinary people who placed their trust in an extraordinary God. Hebrews 11 not only defines faith for us, but it also directs us to the basis of that faith, the person of Jesus. We see the power of belief as it plays out in our lives’ most pivotal turning points as well as our everyday decisions. In learning from the figures recounted in Hebrews 11, we see that the life of faith is one trusting in God’s ultimate plan, committed to living for His glory.

1. Hebrews 6:12 tells us to be “imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.” Think of someone in your life today whom you see as a hero of faith. How does he or she live out this faith, and what qualities in his or her life of faith do you wish to emulate?

2. Review the different translations of Hebrews 11:1 in “The Definition of Faith” on page 35. How do all of these translations shed light on the meaning of faith?

Which translation resonates most with you?

3. On page 35, Britt explains that the primary basis for faith is “not so much what you know, but rather what God has said.” Recall a situation where what you saw or experienced felt contradictory to God’s promises to you through Scripture. Which did you place your trust in, and what was the result?

4. In 2 Corinthians 1:20, Paul says, “For all God’s promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding ‘Yes!’” Think of some of God’s promises to us. How are these fulfilled in the person of Jesus?

5. Think of the situation and the characteristics of the people Paul was writing to in the letter of Hebrews. What difficult circumstances in the here and now of your life are hindering you from fixing your eyes on the hope of God’s promises, your future, and things unseen?

6. What does it mean to live with a conviction of the reality of the spiritual realm, as described on page 40?

What does this “certain resolve of certainty” look like practically?

How does it change the way we live and interact with the world?

7. What spiritual realities (as discussed on pages 40-41) do you see and interact with on a daily basis that are yet unseen?

8. When in your life has God called you out of something—be it wrong, or simply not the best—into something better?

How do you press forward in obedience when you are tempted to return to that thing?

9. On page 46, Britt says, “We often don’t even know that temptation is there until adversity hits.” How was this statement relevant to the recipients of the letter of Hebrews?

How is it relevant to us today?

10. Name a circumstance or area of your life that you had to trust God in earlier today. How does this demonstrate our daily need for faith in Him?

Chapter 3

FAITH WORSHIPPING (ABEL)

Hebrews 11:4 and Genesis 4:1-8

The story of Abel’s sacrifice in Genesis gives us the first incident of faith worshiping in the Bible. The purpose of our lives is worship, because we were created for God’s glory, and so we see that this is the logical first step in our journey of faith. Abel’s sacrifice was considered pleasing to God because it gave God priority, trusted Him for the rest, and was against human nature. Through Abel’s

story we see a life committed to giving God its best, while through his brother, Cain, we see the effects of a heart sacrificing to God void of faith.

1. A.W. Tozer says that worship is “the purpose for which we were created” (page 50). Why is this our purpose?

What Scriptures confirm this statement?

2. Are there areas of your life today that are lacking or misdirecting worship? If so, what are those areas, and how can you better align them to glorify God?

3. On page 51, Britt says that as we pursue the glory of God above all else, “Worship becomes everything and everything becomes worship.” What does this mean for you practically?

4. How does the need for missions correspond directly to the lack of worship in the world (see page 52)?

Why does worship in the life of a follower of Jesus make him or her mission-minded?

5. What does it mean for us to bring our best before God in worship?

6. What does it mean that Abel brought a “more” sacrifice?

How did it make him righteous, and why was it acceptable to God?

7. Why was it so significant that Abel brought his firstlings?

What are the firstlings (or first fruits) in your life, and how can you offer them to God in worship?

Why is it better to just hold on to leftovers if you're planning to give them to God?

8. Think about the ways you spend your money, and the ways you spend your time. What do these reveal about your heart, passions and priorities?

Did this section of the book challenge you in any areas of your life? If so, what are those areas?

9. Read Mark 12:41-44. How is the widow's "more" sacrifice similar to Abel's?

What made it authentic worship, rather than religion?

Why were the sacrifices of the others “less”?

10. On page 64, Britt laments that Christianity has lived in the “realm of leftovers.” What does he mean by this statement?

Do you agree? Why or why not?

11. Read Mark 14:3-9 and John 12:1-8. What parallels can you draw between the story of Mary and the story of Abel?

What similarities do you see in the character of Cain and the character of Judas?

12. Consider Britt and Kate’s consistent response of worship in chapter 1 when they learned that their little girl had cancer. How did lives of worship form a firm foundation for their faith through this trial?

13. Review what Daisy Love says on page 68. How does this truth—articulated by a child—shape the principles in this chapter and our entire lives?

Chapter 4

FAITH WALKING (ENOCH)

Hebrews 11:5-6 and Genesis 5:21-24

Through the story of Enoch, we see an exemplary model of a life lived in intimacy with God—the daily activity of faith walking. He made God’s purposes his destination, followed God’s path, and moved at God’s perfect pace. We see why the metaphor for walking is demonstrative of the life of faith: it connotes a voluntary act in a steady motion that makes progress toward a place of mutual agreement. In Enoch, we see a life that was surrendered to God, controlled by God and lived for God—and the glorious ending that Enoch experienced as a result.

1. What does it mean in your life to be walking with God?

How is your walk today?

2. On page 72, Britt explains that walking with someone requires mutual agreement—first on the place to which you are walking. What does it mean to make God’s glory the place to which you are walking?

How about His kingdom?

3. On page 74, Britt says, “in the entire universe, there is nothing more right than the glory of God.” How is it that our personal glory seeking shows “distrust and mistrust of God” (see page 73)?

Think back to the previous chapter on faith worshiping. How does seeking our own glory misplace worship and thereby damage our faith?

Where in your life can you give God more glory?

4. What does it mean to seek and build God's kingdom in your life?

How can you manifest His kingdom daily—in your work, recreation, relationships and finances?

How does building His kingdom affect your walk with Him?

5. Read Micah 6:8. How does developing God's character in our own hearts and lives keep us walking consistently in His plan for us?

How does this affect our confidence, hope and faith in the unknowns of our future?

6. Read 1 Corinthians 15:51-53 and 1 Thessalonians 4:17. How does living with the expectation that Jesus could come at any time change the way we live our lives?

7. Read Colossians 1:9-14, and pull out each of the hopes that Paul has for the Church. How do these relate to “living up,” and how do we allow them to influence our daily lives?

8. How does eternal life speak not only to the goal of our future but also to the quality of our present life?

How does walking in newness of life allow us to “live up” and embrace eternal life here on earth?

9. Jesus applied the metaphor of the plow when instructing believers to stay the course of obedience (see Luke 9:62). Think through the implications of this metaphor (reference Joshua 1:7, Proverbs 4:26-27 and Isaiah 30:21). How does this instruction guide you in God's will for your life?

10. Scripture tells us that God is light (see 1 John 1:5), God is love (see Ephesians 5:1-3), and God is truth (see 1 John 5:20). Think back to chapter 1 and reflect on how the Word of God is described. How is God's Word intrinsically tied to His character?

What does it mean for Jesus to be the "Word of God" (John 1:1)?

11. Why does it require discipline to be a disciple of Jesus?

How can you create more consistency and dedication in your walk?

How do these disciplines build faith?

Chapter 5

FAITH WORKING (NOAH)

Hebrews 11:7 and Genesis 6:5-14

Noah's story of faith working exemplifies the essential actions of the life of faith: believe, adjust and build. In Noah, we see a man who took God at His word and was willing to dramatically adjust his life in response. Like Abel, Noah walked with God, and thus was ready to respond to God's call and build for God's glory and purpose in the world. Through his actions, we see how intrinsically obedience and faith are interwoven, and through his building of the ark we see a prophetic picture of Christ's salvation for all humanity.

1. Review page 90. Why is the order of the accounts in the Hall of Faith so significant?

What does this reveal about the nature of God?

2. Read Luke 10:41-42 and Mark 14:3-9. Why is it that we get caught up in the "doing," when God is really all about the "being"? Why is this a problem?

When was a time that you prioritized doing for God over being with God?

Are there areas of your life where you are doing this now?

3. On page 92, we are reminded of the truth that God does not need us. Why is this fact so freeing? Do you ever forget this in your daily goings-on?

What does this truth reveal to us about the invitational nature of God's love?

Can you think of a time when you were worshiping and walking with God and were led into His work as a natural flow out of that love relationship?

4. Read Ephesians 2:8-19. Noah was considered righteous because of his faith working, not because of his work in itself. In light of this verse in Ephesians, why is the distinction so important?

How does this New Testament Scripture apply to the Old Testament story of Noah?

5. Read Genesis 6:8-9. How does Noah's life of faith resemble Enoch's?

What about Noah's historical context made his life of faith so profound?

6. On page 96, Britt reviews the many ways that warnings come to us. Recall a time when you received a warning. How did it come? Did you neglect it or obey it? What was the result?

7. Noah obeyed God exactly, and it had a direct impact on every area of his life. What does it mean that neither our obedience nor our sin happen in a vacuum?

Where have you personally experienced this?

8. On page 99, Britt says, "I found that God is a giver, not a taker. For everything that I surrendered to Him, He blessed me with far more than I could have ever imagined." Do you ever find it hard to believe that God is indeed a giver?

When have you surrendered and been blessed as a result (or found yourself inside the deepest, darkest jungle, so to speak)?

9. Why are life adjustments so difficult to make?

What is the role of faith in making them?

10. What do you believe God is doing in your life?

What has He said to you about your future? (Think about His promises in Scripture and through prayer.)

How do you need to adjust in order to build for His purposes?

11. Why did the culture, call and task of Noah require faith?

How do your culture, call and task require faith from you?

12. Read Matthew 24:37-39. How is Noah's preparing of the boat similar to our preparation for Christ's return?

How is Noah's ark a prophetic picture of Jesus Christ?

13. Saint Francis of Assisi said, "Preach the gospel at all times—if necessary, use words" (page 104). If your life were a sermon, what would the message be?

Chapter 6

FAITH WILLING (ABRAHAM)

Hebrews 11:10 and Genesis 12:1-8

The life of Abraham represents a faith that is willing to respond to God. Abraham listened to God, trusted His promises, and obeyed His commands. He was willing to go where God sent him, forgo the things he needed to leave behind, worship God in the process, and witness along the way.

1. In the first sentence of Genesis 12, five times God says to Abraham, “I will.” How did the “I will” nature of God’s command affect Abraham’s response?

How do the promises of God in Scripture affect the way we respond today to what He asks us to do?

2. What is the *verbum nudum* (see page 110)?

What does it mean that the *verbum nudum* supersedes what we see?

How did the uncertainty of God’s command affect Abraham’s response?

How do you respond when God's commands are beyond your understanding?

3. Can you think of a time when God said "go" and you trusted Him? What was the outcome?

4. What does it mean to free our selves from our own self-sufficiency, ingenuity, worldly connections and wherewithal?

What does this mean for you personally?

5. Review the section "Who Do You Love the Most?" specifically page 114. Why was it so impacting for Britt as a little boy to hear that there was someone his mom loved more?

How did a deep understanding of this truth affect Britt's response to his daughter's, Daisy Love's, cancer?

6. Why is the American ideology of security truly a myth?

How is this connected to our need to control?

Why does God want to deal with this security myth in our lives?

7. On page 115, Britt reminds us, "Abraham didn't demand all the info or all the answers to obey God." Why is this element so critical to Abraham's place in the Hall of Faith?

What happened after Abraham obeyed?

8. Read Jeremiah 29:11. Think about our typical response to this verse. Where's the problem?

Continue reading Jeremiah 29:12-13. What does this verse show us? What is the subsequent paradigm shift that needs to happen for us?

9. What is the difference between a childlike faith and a childish faith? Can you give an example—be it real life or hypothetical—to illustrate the difference?

10. On page 119, we learn that Abraham's dwelling in this life was a tent. How does the metaphor of life as a pilgrim correspond to the life of faith?

How is this faith affected when we realize God is the destination? What does that mean?

11. Read the story of Peter and Jesus in Mark 10:28-31. What is Jesus' caveat for us leaving things behind to follow Him? What is His promise?

What things in your life has God called you to forgo in order to live toward His eternal reality? Is there anything He is calling you to forgo now?

12. What is worldliness, and why is it more of an attitude than an act (see page 122)?

What is the mark of spiritual maturity in relation to worldliness and our desires?

How do we move further toward this transformation?

13. How did Abraham confront his culture through worship and witness?

Where do you need to confront the culture around you today? What does it look like to do this through worship and witness?

How do our lives change when we realize God is already on mission all around us?

Chapter 7

FAITH WAITING (SARAH)

Hebrews 11:11-12 and Genesis 15:1-6; 18:11-15; 21:1-7

The life of Sarah represents a faith that is waiting and that allows God to accomplish a work in it as a result. When we wait on God, He works in us what He wants to see accomplished: We are changed and improved, purged and matured, tempered and balanced. We see through Sarah's story that faith that worships, walks, works and is willing will also have to wait. And the result of those times of waiting will be greater character—and ultimately faith—in our lives.

1. On page 131, Britt explains that we don't like to wait because it feels like work—and perhaps this is because there is a work that is accomplished through waiting. When has waiting recently felt like work? Was there a work accomplished in you as a result?

2. Isaiah 55:8 tells us that God's ways are not our ways and His timing is not our timing (see page 132). How does this scriptural truth help us through times of waiting?

3. On page 135, Britt states that our tendency is to make "waiting on God" about our own plans and purposes. What does it mean for us to start looking at things from God's time, scale and perspective, instead of our own?

Can you apply a practical example from your own life?

4. What are some false expectations that you've had or are currently having?

What has been the result of waiting on the wrong things?

What does it mean to surrender these areas of your life to the Lord?

5. What does it mean to have an active faith through times of waiting?

6. On page 137, Britt states that Abraham's life was "not summarized by the fact that he waited, but by the fact that he was a friend of the living God." How is Abraham's friendship with God directly correlated to his times of waiting?

7. Read Philippians 4:6. How does prayer affect the level of peace in your life?

Can you think of a specific time recently when you've observed that direct correspondence?

8. What is progressive surrender (see page 139)?

How do we do this through times of waiting?

How does this surrendering process prevent us from causing problems or missing God's promises?

9. Revisit the section "Britt, I Am Not Your Secretary" (page 139). What does it mean to pay closer attention to God's Word?

How does this correspond to being active in your faith—specifically when waiting?

10. What does it mean that God is “all about the process” (page 141)?

How does this affect our goal-oriented nature?

What does it mean that God is immanent within that process (see page 142)?

11. What is fideism? What is rationalism?

What does it mean for biblical faith to be a composite of faith and reason (see page 147)?

Relate this principle to Abraham and Sarah's journey into parenthood. How were they able to see God's promises through human impossibilities?

12. On page 148, Britt affirms, "What is most reasonable is to take God at His Word." Where in your life does taking God at His Word need to trump trust in your circumstances, empirical data, or otherwise?

Why is this the most reasonable action of faith?

Chapter 8

FAITH WELL-TRIED (ABRAHAM WITH ISAAC)

Hebrews 11:17-19 and Genesis 22:1-18

The story of Abraham and his son Isaac represents a faith that is well tried and glorifying to God as a result. Abraham is told to sacrifice something immeasurably precious for the sake of righteousness, and his faith is revealed through his response to God's request. As a result of his time of waiting, Abraham responded to God by obeying immediately, persistently and ultimately.

1. Reread Genesis 22:1-2. Why is it crucial to recognize the biblical and historical context when reading this account (see page 150)?

What does it mean that we have an anthropocentric worldview and theology?

Consider the work of the cross and God as a Father sacrificing His Son. How does Abraham's story foreshadow and prepare the way for Jesus' ultimate sacrifice? (Reference the location of the sacrifice; see page 163.)

2. Read James 1:2-4,12 and Romans 5:3-5. What is the difference between testing and tempting? How does this relate to the need for faith to be exercised to function at its best?

Why should we consider trials "all joy"? Do you think this refers to the circumstance, the result, or both?

3. What is the difference between God's purposes and our messes?

Have you ever blamed God for a trial and then realized the mess was your own making? In those circumstances, what comfort can we gain from Romans 8:28?

4. Read Matthew 14:32-33. On page 156, Britt reminds us, "The disciples had never *once* worshiped Jesus Christ until after they had been through the storm." Consider this point in light of the progression of faith stories in Hebrews 11. How does this biblical story show the preeminence of worship in faith?

5. Read Peter 1:6-7. When has a trial had the result of a refiner's fire in your life?

Why do trials so often have this effect?

6. Consider how God had worked progressively through Abraham's life as he developed faith (see page 157). How did this time of waiting on God prepare Abraham to respond correctly in an enormous trial?

7. Why will God often test us in regard to what we value highly?

How does this testing work to accomplish the glory of God in our lives?

8. Read Psalm 34:8. Why must we taste to see that the Lord is good? What does this mean practically?

Why is the opposite also true: "The *less* you obey God, the *less* you will experience that God is good" (page 161)?

9. Why did Abraham obey immediately (see Genesis 22:3)?

Why is it crucial to not only believe God is good but also to believe He is *better* (see page 161)?

How does knowing Scripture aid us in remembering this truth through trials?

Reflect back on the first chapter, “When My Heart Is Overwhelmed.” How did an intimate knowledge of Scripture keep Britt and Kate absolutely convinced that God is both good and better?

10. Read Genesis 22:9-18 and consider again the foreshadowing of the greatest demonstration of God’s sacrificial love—the sacrifice of His Son on the cross. Why did Abraham’s obedience demonstrate immense faith in the doctrine of the resurrection before it had been revealed to humanity?

11. Read James 2:21-23. Why did believing God's Word (i.e., a promise of descendants through Isaac) give Abraham faith in God's power?

Are you so convinced of scriptural truths and God's plan for your life that you can rely completely on His power? Why or why not?

12. Genesis 22:5 is the first time the word "worship" is used in Scripture. What does the context of worship in this verse demonstrate about Abraham's faith in trials?

13. Read John 21:15. Jesus asks each of us, "Do you love Me more than these?" What are the "these" that He would ask you about today?

What do you need to offer up by faith?

Chapter 9

FAITH WINNING (MOSES)

Hebrews 11:23-29 and Exodus 14:13-31; 15:1-3

The life of Moses represents a faith that is winning, the result of the accumulative steps of faith through these chapters. Moses was a conqueror in both the physical and spiritual realms because he trusted God's purposes, promises and power. His faith was one winning against fear, valuing God's work above every temptation of passion, possession and position. Moses' faith kept perspective of God's plans and could win because Christ is victorious.

1. Read Romans 8:37. How does the object of our faith enable us to be victorious in faith?

How does this victory relate to the physical realm versus spiritual realm?

2. What happened when Moses tried to take God's purposes into his own hands?

How does our obedience correspond to God's provision in our lives?

What works were accomplished through Moses' time in the wilderness that demonstrate God's goodness through our messes?

3. Read Acts 4:29-31. How did the early Christians respond to confrontation from their culture?

Where do you sense or experience confrontation today?

4. On page 177, Britt says, "So much of the Church is void of power because so much of the Church is void of prayer." Do you agree? Why or why not?

5. Read 2 Timothy 1:7-10. What kinds of fears do you experience in relation to your faith?

How does faith win against these fears?

6. On page 180, Britt says, “Often we make the mistake of getting our eyes on the purpose instead of the One who purposed.” How does this relate to the progressive order of faith in Hebrews 11?

Is there anything in your life that you need to cut off, unplug, adopt or surrender in order to keep your eyes on the One who purposed?

7. What does it look like to have a proper view of power, prestige, possessions and wealth? How do we maintain this perspective?

What is the warning to us in 1 John 2:15-17?

How does faith relate to what we value?

8. Read Colossians 2:13-15. How does Christ's victory on the cross accomplish these things and thereby make us victorious through faith?

How do we take up the shield of faith (see Ephesians 6:16) and use it against the schemes of the enemy (see 1 Peter 5:8-9)?

9. Read Colossians 1:13-14. How does our rescue from sin parallel the exodus of the Israelites out of Egypt?

How do we keep from giving into fear and a perspective of looking back to Egypt?

10. When God parted the Red Sea for the Israelites, they “walked on dry land” (Exodus 14:29). As Britt says on page 190, “When God does it, it’s not mucky; it’s not muddy; it’s not slimy. It’s dry; it’s solid.” Apply this concept to your current circumstances. How is God’s path dry, even if we don’t fully understand it?

How does this concept reinforce Christ as our solid rock?

11. Explain why our Lord is a warrior.

How does knowledge of Christ as victorious change the way we live our lives?

What does it mean to share in His victory?

Chapter 10

FAITH WELCOMING (RAHAB)

Hebrews 11:30-31 and Joshua 2:8-11

The actions of Rahab in the book of Joshua demonstrate faith welcoming the purposes of God. Rahab believed in God and His plan for His people, and she welcomed His purposes in her life through faith. By her story, we see that God is looking for people willing to be used for His plan and we understand that His desire to include humanity is an expression of His sovereignty. Despite her brokenness, God chose Rahab because of her faith, and He used her to bring about a savior for all nations.

1. What does it mean that every member of the Church is a minister (e.g., the doctrine of the priesthood of the saints found in 1 Peter 2)?

What is the calling on every believer as a result?

2. Reflect on what you learned in “God Is Up to Something Big” (page 196). Do these facts inspire you? Overwhelm you? Challenge you?

Where do you see your place in God’s mission to the world?

Does this make you rethink your priorities in any way?

3. How does the story of Moses and the Israelites play a central role in God’s plan to bless the nations through one nation in particular?

How does this work to bring about God’s ultimate glory?

What is the significance of this story to our faith today?

4. What does it mean that God “has chosen to work *through* people rather than *independent* of people” (page 200)?

How is God's desire for human participation an expression of His sovereignty?

How does it affect your faith to know that God is *looking* for people willing to be used for His purposes?

5. Read Romans 10:17. How do we apply this concept to increase our faith?

6. Read Matthew 21:31-32. How does this verse relate to Rahab's belief?

Do you ever fall into the tendency of being so caught up in religious routine that you miss your own brokenness and need for God's intimate and transformative love? Explain.

- 7. On page 206, Britt states that we see “a God who would stop the forward momentum of 500 years of prophetic history to call a prostitute into a brand-new life and community.” What does this reveal about the character of God?

Do you see any of yourself in the story of Rahab?

- 8. Why can our cultural valuing of comfort cause us to miss God’s plan for us?

How does this change with deepened trust in God’s perfect will for our lives?

- 9. Consider the scenario on page 211: “If every Christian in the world led just one person to the Lord, and then disciplined them for a year . . . we’d be on the way.” How does this scenario help you see your place in God’s mission to the world?

How do we gain boldness in faith toward that mission?

10. Consider Rahab's place in the lineage of King David, and ultimately the lineage of Christ. What does this reveal about whom God chooses for His plans in the world?

How does Rahab's story give us hope amidst our brokenness?

Chapter 11

FAITH WARRING (DAVID AND THE REST)

Hebrews 11:32-40

In this last section, we see a host of individuals who—though they could have ended up just as easily in the Hall of Shame—made incredible faith decisions at pivotal junctures in their lives. Amidst their mistakes and shortcomings, we see the character of a merciful God who blesses and uses people in spite of themselves and for their ultimate purpose: His ultimate glory.

1. Where in the Old Testament do we witness the imagery of warfare?

Where do we see this imagery in the New Testament?

2. How is David's battle with Goliath a spiritual metaphor for our lives today?

Why did David have such commendable "God confidence"?

3. On page 219, Britt states, "You do not need to be extraordinary to be extraordinarily used." How do we see this principle played out in the lives of those named in Hebrews 11:32-40?

How is this an encouragement for us in our faith?

4. What does it mean that God “blesses us in spite of us” (page 222), rather than because of us?

What is the purpose of God’s blessing in our lives?

Read Ezekiel 36:22. How does this Scripture reveal God’s ultimate purpose in working through the nation of Israel?

5. Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-29. How does this verse work to both humble us and make us optimistic in the character of Christ?

How can each of us be *most* effective for Christ’s kingdom? What does this mean for you personally?

6. Consider the progression of the faith accounts in Hebrews 11. Why do you think we see faith winning *before* we see faith warring?

What does this tell us about the perspective we're to have against opposition?

7. What does Scripture's use of the language of warfare reveal to us when we look at our spiritual lives?

What weapons does the Christian use in these battles?

8. What does it mean to live with a "wartime mentality" (page 228)?

How does this change your perspective? Your use of resources? Your personal values?

What does it mean to be fully given to the task?

9. When have you seen spiritual victories that are real, tangible and transformative?

10. Why is it that “sometimes more faith is required to *endure* hardship than to *escape* hardship” (page 230)?

Read Daniel 3:16-18. What did the willingness of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to endure hardship—with the possibility that they may not be delivered—reveal about their faith?

11. On page 232, Britt says, "Suffering is not merely the *result* of glorifying Jesus and being on mission, but it is also the *means* of glorifying Jesus and being on mission." What does this mean for the Church corporately?

What does this mean for you personally?

12. Read Philippians 1:19-21. How does having a faith worth dying for make our entire lives worth living for?

How does the knowledge that Jesus is victorious change the way we live our lives on mission?

13. Review Hebrews 11 and the progression of faith displayed through these accounts. Where has your faith grown most through this study?

What has been the result?
