

ONE STEP FURTHER—DISCUSSION/DEVOTIONAL GUIDE
WEEK FOUR
STAR WARS IV: A NEW HOPE



- **What is one of the biggest dreams you have accomplished thus far in life? Who helped you in accomplishing your dream?**

My days are over. My hopes have disappeared. My heart's desires are broken.

Job 17:11 (NLT)

Trouble pursues the sinner, but the righteous are rewarded with good things.

Proverbs 13:31 (NIV)

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

- **Where in life have you lost hope and feel stuck by your circumstances? How have those feelings affected you?**
- **Why do so many of us tend to feel hopeless so often when we know that our hope is in Christ?**
- **How have you experienced God's hope during times of difficulty?**

Key Thought: We often fail to realize that God has a plan for our pain. We don't have to go through our pain alone.

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2 (NIV)

- **Describe a time when your faith and hope spilled over to someone else. How did that experience impact you?**
- **Who are some of the people you have depended on to help you? How have these relationships shaped you into the person you are today?**

Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

Romans 8:35.27 (NLT)

- **What does Christian community look like in your life and how has it helped you in your relationship with Christ?**
- **What are some things keeping you from having the deep level of Christian community that God desires?**
- **What things can you do starting this week that will help you dive deeper into Biblical community?**

Final Thought: God does not desire us to face life's challenges alone. Not only is God always there for us and His hope available to us, but we are called to surround ourselves with other believers to form Biblical community. It is within Christian community we will find our own Obi Wan's to guide us and comfort us during the tough times of life.

For Further Study

To use this resource, simply select one or two questions from each category below that you think will help your group discussion. Alternatively, you can use these questions and Scriptures in your own personal devotions during the week.

Open

- When you were a child, what are some ways you showed trust in your parents?

Explore

Read Hebrews 11:1-40

- What is faith? (11:1)
- What does faith help us to comprehend about the creation of the world? (11:3)
- How did Abel demonstrate faith? (11:4)
- What role does faith play in approaching and pleasing God? (11:6)
- What did Noah's faith prompt him to do? (11:7_
- How did faith affect Abraham's life? (11:8-12)
- How does faith change a person's focus and perspective? (11:13-16)
- What hard choices did Moses make because of his faith? (11:24-28)
- What "secret" enabled Moses to persevere through rough times? (11:27)

- How does this passage disprove the notion that faith always leads to earthly blessing? (11:35-38_
- What happened to a great many Old Testament saints who exercised faith in God? (11:39)

Reflect

- According to this passage, what is the only way we can please God with our lives?
- What prompts committed followers of Christ to continue to exercise faith even when He never seems to "come through" for them?
- Why do you think the author said that "the world was not worthy of" the heroes of faith mentioned in Hebrews 11?
- How do you think the individuals praised in Hebrews 11 were looked upon by those of their day?
- Why do you think God sometimes leaves us in the dark about His will?
- Which characters named in this chapter would you most like and least like to trade places with? Why?
- In what concrete ways can we demonstrate the truth that we are "aliens and strangers" on earth? (11:13)

Apply

- With what do you need to trust God even though you can't see what the future holds? How can you show this trust?
- What can you do this week to place your plans for the future in God's hands?