

# A HEART LIKE JESUS (May 28, 2017)

## Faithfully Refuse and Choose (Hebrews 11:1, 24-26)

### Small Group Study Notes

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Getting to know you: Remember when you were a child and had a child's faith? We saw things in our imaginations (mine where ants) and attempted ridiculous feats (especially with bricks, boards and bikes). Who was your childhood imaginary friend and if they were sitting in your group today, what would they say about who you've become? What crazy things did you do attempt as a child that you wouldn't recommend to parents today?

OPEN: Moses was credited as a faithful hero for choosing to be identified with his people, God's people, while he refused to continue in the pleasures and treasures of palace in Egypt. Can you recall a time in your life where you faithfully chose to obey God and refused the temporary pleasures of this world? What was that encounter with God like? Do you know Him better and in what way did He reveal Himself through your faithfulness?

#### Read Hebrews 11:1,24-26

- According to verse 1, what is God's definition of faith?
- In vs 24 the Greek word **REFUSE** translates "deny" or to "refuse an offer", while in vs 25 the word **CHOOSE** translates "to take for oneself". Do you think it's possible to choose God without first refusing self?
- Can you think of a Christian truth or value that was difficult to choose because you struggle denying yourself?

Today we learned of Six opportunities to be faithful by choosing and refusing.

- #1 Faithfully choose to see the invisible – because it is eternal (2 Corinthians 4:18)**
  - What are some invisible qualities of God that you admire about Him?
- #2 Faithfully refuse the world – because it is passing (1 John 2:17)**
  - How does Romans 12:2 and Colossians 3:1-2 help in refusing the world?
- #3 Faithfully choose to love – because it is paramount (1 Corinthians 13)**
  - a. Discuss ways to intentionally choose to love God and others this week as a team.
- #4 Faithfully choose to repent – because it is life (Ezekiel 18:32)**
  - a. What are some areas in your life that were difficult to turn from?
- #5 Faithfully choose to believe and confess – because it is salvation (Romans 10:8-13)**
  - a. What does Jesus teach us in Luke 6:45 concerning our belief and speech?
  - b. What does it say about our belief if we never confess Christ to others in speech?
- #6 Faithfully choose to follow – because it is relational (Luke 9:23)**
  - a. Read the calling of Peter to follow in Matthew 4:18-20. When Peter dropped the net he refused (denied/forfeited) his current way of life and chose a permanent relationship with Jesus. At that time of choice Peter didn't know the full cost of following. Can you list some things in Peter's life that, had he known, might have persuaded him not to follow? How about things that would have?

Close: Every time we choose something from God we refuse something for ourselves. What is it that God would have you deny yourself and follow Him with? Choose today