Faith

1. **What is faith?**  **Like a diamond, faith has many sides**. *John 14:1 “Believe in God. Believe in me”)*

1. Faith is **knowing**, **believing**, and **responding** to the truth about God. *We discover the truth about God in His word. I believe the first foundational truth is that God is good. I believe the Bible is a revelation from God and a revelation of God.*
2. Faith is **hearing** and **responding** to the voice of God.
3. Faith is a **power** from God which **always** leads to **action**.
4. Faith is **trust** in and **assurance** from God that releases His power. Hebrews 11:1*Two sides to faith: God’s and ours*

2. **Abraham is our example of faith.** Galatians 3:9 “So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.”

1. Abraham **obeyed** God. *“Go to the land I will show you (Canaan).” Genesis 12:1*
2. Abraham **believed** God’s promises. *“I will give you a son.” Genesis 15:4-6*
3. Abraham **interceded** for others. *“Will you destroy the righteous with the wicked?” Genesis 18:23*
4. Abraham **submitted** to God’s request for a **sacrifice**. *“Sacrifice Isaac.” Genesis 22:2 Trusted God*
5. Abraham’s faith made him **right** with God. *Genesis 15:6 “Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous.” NLT*

3. **How should our faith respond to God?**

1. Faith **obeys** God’s command to repent. *“Repent of your sins.” Mark 1:15*
2. Faith **believes** Jesus is the Savior. *Acts 16:31 “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.”* *Believe that God sent His Son to be your Savior to save you from sin.*
3. Faith **submits** to God’s request for a sacrifice. *Mark 8:34 “deny yourself take up your cross and follow me.” Me going to TC in 1971*
4. Faith **intercedes** for others. *Colossians 4:12 “Epaphras is wrestling in prayer for you.”*
5. Faith is an **assurance** from God that we are right with Him. *Romans 8:16 “The Holy Spirit tells us we are children of God.” (This is God’s response to our faith.) Faith knows God has heard us.*
	1. **How is faith developed?**
6. Listen to God through His **Word**. *When you hear God speak to you through His Word, you will have faith. Going to Detroit TC in summer of 1968*
7. Listen to God through **prayer**. *When you hear God speak to you in prayer, you will have faith.*
8. Obey God’s **direction.** *When God directs, we must respond in faith.*
9. Act on God’s **promises**. *When God speaks His promise to you, you will have the confidence (assurance) to act.*
10. **Ask** God what He wants to do. *God will give you faith for what He wants to do.*

* 1. **At Teen Challenge, what does our faith believe?**  We believe:
	2. A drug addict’s root problem is **sin**. *Repentance is a step of obedience and faith.*
	3. Repentance of sin and **faith** in Christ will bring **freedom** from addiction.
	4. A **growing** faith will give the student the **power** to live an addiction-free life.
	5. God will **supply** our personal and ministry needs. *TC is a ministry of faith – trusting God to meet our needs. Detroit; praying for meat; office equip*
	6. God will **direct** us. (staff, students, ministry)
	7. God will **help** us during **difficult** times.
	8. **How do we lead students into a life of faith?**
	9. Help them realize they need to change the **object** of their faith. *We all have faith. Before salvation it is in ourselves or what others have taught us. Ill. Disciples’ faith in wind and waves*
	10. Let our lives be an **example** of faith. *Share your stories, positive and negative.*
	11. Lead them to **develop** faith through obedience to God. (#4c)
	12. Encourage them to join the staff in **trusting** God for the needs of the ministry.
	13. Look for opportunities to use God’s **power** to overcome **problems.** *Many stories of legal problems resolved.*

**Faith: trust in and assurance from God that releases His power**. **Example:** **Abraham**

**7. In what areas do you need faith to believe God, obey God, or submit to God? In what ways do you need to focus on God’s Word or prayer so your faith can grow?**

**Write down at least one idea.**