



UPSTATE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

WEEK 12 - 11:1-40 - OCTOBER 28 - NOVEMBER 3

LEADER NOTES

Leaders, Hebrews 11 challenges us to live boldly by faith, drawing inspiration from those who have gone before us. It invites us to trust God's promises, act on His calling, and support one another in our faith journey. The passage lists several examples to overview, but to utilize your time with the group, choose two or three examples to highlight as you ask the questions. Dealing with specific individuals versus an overview approach will help dive deeper into what faith looks like.

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You can find other sermons from our Teaching Pastor's [HERE](#).

COMMUNITY

OPEN THE GROUP BY CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER AND ALLOWING A MOMENT FOR EVERYONE TO HAVE A PLACE TO BELONG.

START THE GROUP BY TAKING PRAYER REQUESTS, FINDING OUT ABOUT PEOPLE'S WEEK, AND PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER.

OPENING QUESTIONS:

HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE FAITH TO SOMEONE WHO HAS NEVER EXPERIENCED IT?

SCRIPTURE

TAKE THIS TIME TO STUDY THE BIBLE TOGETHER. REMEMBER, THE GOAL IS NOT JUST TO CONVEY INFORMATION, BUT TO HELP PEOPLE IN YOUR GROUP LEARN TO READ THE BIBLE FOR THEMSELVES.

THE POINT

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS ONLY LIVED BY FAITH.

Hebrews 11:1-40

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2 For by it the people of old received their commendation. 3 By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

4 By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. 5 By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. 6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. 7 By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. 8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance.

And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. 11 By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

13 These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. 14 For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15 If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, 18 of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." 19 He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. 20 By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. 21 By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. 22 By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. 24 By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. 26 He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. 27 By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. 28 By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.

29 By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. 30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. 31 By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

32 And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— 33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. 35 Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. 36 Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two,^[a] they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— 38 of whom the world was not worthy—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

39 And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, 40 since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Heb 11:1-40.

STUDY NOTES

WEEK 11 NOTES : Hebrews 11:1-40

Hebrews 11 paints one of the clearest and most beautiful pictures of faith in the Bible. The Book of Hebrews emphasizes the supremacy of Christ and the importance of faith, but chapter 11 gives multiple examples of how faith practically and miraculously works. To be clear, the writer is not referring to just any kind of faith or faith in any old thing. He is talking about faith that believes the Word of God and acts upon that Word.

Faith Defined:

Hebrews 11:1 states, "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." This definition sets the foundation for understanding faith as both a trust in God's promises and a conviction in His unseen work.

We can be assured that faith is not a risk or a blind leap. Faith is a divine gift from God to move us toward God with confidence and conviction. Faith is a firm conviction concerning the promises of God, and a confidence that He will do what He says He will do. On the other hand, Faith endures even when we cannot see or understand God's plans. We live by faith as Christians because our faith rests in Him, not in ourselves or in our abilities.

The story of Christianity is about Christ saving sinners and using them for the glory of God. Therefore, faith is based on a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. It is with this faith that we believe God created the world and upholds everything in it.

Faith in Action:

The chapter further illustrates true faith is demonstrated through actions. The common thread among these heroes is that their faith is not passive. Each story shows us that faith compels us to step out, and to follow God's leading.

The chapter presents a list of faithful heroes, each illustrating different aspects of the same faith. For instance, **Noah** acted on faith when he built the ark, responding to God's warning despite the ridicule he faced. **Abraham** trusted in God's promise of a future land and descendants, living as a stranger in faith. **Moses** chose to suffer with God's people rather than enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. His decision illustrates the value of prioritizing God's call over worldly comforts.

God uniquely uses each person and situation to accomplish His plan, but we can be encouraged to know that we are part of the same faith. The same God who operated in their lives, operates in ours today.

For more resources, click [HERE](#).

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- *What is the foundation for Christian faith? What other foundations do people try to use for faith?*
- *Why is the object of faith more important than faith itself?*
- *Drawing from the examples, what is the relationship between faith and perseverance?*
- *How are faith in God and obedience to His ways related? Can you have one without the other? Explain.*
- *What are similar traits in the individuals listed that would apply to us today?*
- *Who are individuals you know whom you believe are strong in their faith? What are examples of their faith?*
- *How are you demonstrating faith to others? Is it a positive or negative demonstration?*

COMMISSION

AS YOU WRAP UP YOUR GROUP, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT EVERYONE KNOWS WE GO INTO THE WORLD ON MISSION FOR JESUS. USE THIS TIME TO FOCUS EVERYONE TO LIVE ON MISSION AS YOU LEAVE.

EVERYONE IN THE WORLD OPERATES THEIR LIVES BY FAITH. FOR MANY, THEIR FAITH IS IN TEMPORAL THINGS AND FALLIBLE PEOPLE. FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST, HOWEVER, HAVE A FAITH IN A FOUNDATION THAT WILL STAND FOREVER. IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SHARE OUR FAITH WITH OTHERS. IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO VISIBLY DEMONSTRATE OUR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST SO OTHERS WILL SEE THAT JESUS IS BETTER.

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