

# HEBREWS 11:1-6 | What Is Faith? Abel, Cain, & Enoch (WEEK 1)

## Groundwork

How would you define your faith? How has this definition changed since becoming a Christian?

## Intended Outcome

To have a clear understanding of Christian faith so that it leads to a life of sacrificial worship of God.

## Discussion

- Discuss with the group Tyler's definition of faith and how it may have differed from what you believed it to be or how others around you define it.
- Take time with your group to interpret verse one in your own words.
- Abel offering sacrifice was an act of faithful worship. Discuss a recent time where you were able to demonstrate your faith. What was the outcome?
- Read John 3:11-12. What does this passage tell us about the brothers?
- Do your actions reflect what you say you believe? If not, what are some steps we can take to change this?

## Prayer

Ask God to give you the faith that is needed to live a life that is satisfied.

## Extended Study

Watch Paul Tripp's *A Conversation on Fear and Faith*. Found here: <http://liberate.org/2014/10/14/paul-tripp-on-fear-and-faith/>

# HEBREWS 11:7 | NOAH (WEEK 2)

## Groundwork

Read Genesis 6:1-12. Regardless of how you interpret these verses, we know that God is not pleased with the actions of the people of that time. Reflect on the moral situation of our time. Does your response demonstrate faithful obedience or passive conformity?

## Intended Outcome

To have a clear understanding of Christian faith so that it leads to a life of sacrificial worship of God.

## Discussion

- How has this series begun to reshape your mind and heart when it comes to your faith?
- What made Noah's actions an act of faith? What were the results of his faith?
- Noah building the ark was an act of "reverent fear." What thoughts or words come to mind when you hear the term "reverent fear?" Name someone in your life who has been a great example of this and why.
- Read Genesis 6:22 and Genesis 7:5. How would you describe your obedience to God?
- How can this group be a safe place to hold one another accountable to live in reverent fear of God?

## Prayer

Assign parts of Psalm 27 to the group and read it as a prayer.

## Extended Study

Read Isaiah 61; 1 Corinthians 9; 2 Timothy 4.



# JOHN 20:24-29 | DOUBTING THOMAS (WEEK 3)

## Groundwork

How has doubt crippled you from leading a confident life of sacrificial worship? Share this with your leader and pray together to come up with a spiritual plan to deal with your doubt.

## Intended Outcome

To have a clear understanding of Christian faith so that it leads to a life of sacrificial worship of God.

## Discussion

- If you can remember, discuss with your group your reaction to the first time you learned about Jesus resurrecting himself from the grave. What are some of the reactions you have gotten when you told someone about the resurrection?
- What does Jesus' encounter with Thomas teach us about how to deal with doubt?
- Describe Thomas' attitude both before and after his encounter with Jesus.
- All of us at one point deal with doubt. Take the rest of your time to confess your doubt and pray for one another. Also pray for others that you know who are not believers.

## Prayer

Thank God for the resurrection of Jesus and pray for opportunities to share what Jesus did for unbelievers. Pray for continuous, real encounters with Jesus to grow your faith and trust in him.

## Extended Study

Read *Do Not Disbelieve – But Believe* by Jon Bloom. Find it here:

<http://www.desiringgod.org/blog/posts/do-not-disbelieve-but-believe>



# HEBREWS 11:8-19 | Abraham & Family (Week 4)

## Groundwork

What are certain truths you are unable to see that have guided your decision-making in the past?

## Intended Outcome

To not turn back to our old way of life and to faithfully persevere during our most difficult times.

## Discussion

- If you could attempt one thing and would know without a doubt it would be successful, what would that thing be?
- Read this week's passage as a group. What stood out to you most in this week's sermon and passage?
- What do Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac's experiences teach us about faith?
- When you read the promise of a heavenly city, how does that impact your faith today?
- How could this passage be used to bring encouragement during times of suffering?
- What acts of faith do you believe God is asking you to take that will require you to step out of your comfort zone?

## Prayer

Continue to ask God for faith to know and carry out his will regardless of the situation.

## Extended Study

Read Genesis 22 and "Why did God tell Abraham to kill his son Isaac?" (found at <https://carm.org/bible-difficulties/genesis-deuteronomy/why-did-god-tell-abraham-kill-his-son-isaac>).

# ISAAC, JACOB, ESAU | HEBREWS 11:20-21 (WK. 5)

## Groundwork

We see here in these two short verses a sort of summary of the lives of Isaac and Jacob. These men have amazing stories that demonstrate the humanity of these figures, showing deep need of God's grace and conscious, determined faith in the God who faithfully provides that grace for their lives. These can be read in Genesis chapter 24-27 for Isaac and chapter 27-35 for Jacob. Both of their stories are marked with an inheritance of faith, with God telling Isaac in Genesis 26:4-5, "I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws." And God reiterated this to Jacob in Genesis 35:11-12, "I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply. A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall come from your own body. The land that I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your offspring after you."

## Intended Outcome

Believers are called into the same inheritance of faith, as that which is passed down from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob through Christ.

## Group Discussion

1. What do these two verses tell you about the life of faith to which believers are called?
2. One day our lives will be summed up. What will be said of your life?
3. How can you live your life in a way that passes on this heritage of faith to generations after us? Or will you consider entering into the beautiful story of redemption God offers us through Christ?

## Closing Prayer

God, may our lives be shaped by such faith, let our hope be eternity with you and our conviction be about your work on our behalf and for all mankind. Thank you for graciously calling us into this inheritance and making your people a part of this legacy of hope.

## Extended Study



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Read the account of Jacob wrestling with God in Genesis 32:22-32. What does it mean to wrestle with God in your life? How does it affect others around you?



# JOSEPH | HEBREWS 11:22 (WEEK 6)

## Groundwork

The story of Joseph is one of the best-known stories in the Bible. However, of the whole story of Joseph, what the author of Hebrews focuses on is the last recorded action of Joseph's life. God sustained the Israelite people in Egypt through Joseph. I would highly recommend reading this account in Genesis 37-50, in particular reading it with an eye for God's sovereignty and work in the midst of really broken human interactions. The author of Hebrews here leverages the audience's knowledge of Joseph's story to highlight the eventual trajectory of the story, God's people being drawn back to communion with God in the promised land. Likewise, believers are in a state of tension, not yet in a better country, tasked with the ministry of reconciliation that is already being worked out in us, yet is not complete. Believers are freed from sin, yet subject to the effects of it (both from inside and out).

## Intended Outcome

This passage then shows us the persistent nature of God's will and how faith acted on allows us to participate in his plan of redemption as we look toward the future hope of reunion with our adoptive Father.

## Group Discussion

1. Joseph's life was full of some of the highest highs and lowest lows imaginable. In retrospect, we can see how God used each aspect of Joseph's life for his purposes. How do you react to that? If you find yourself at a peak or a valley in life, what remains true for you?
2. How have you seen God work in the lives of those around you, particularly those in your community group?
3. What are some ways you can point people to the future hope you have in Christ?

## Closing Prayer

God grant us favor to see how our faith fits into your larger plan for your church. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of this ministry of reconciliation.



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## Extended Study

Read Acts 9-11 looking for similar parallels as about in Joseph's story. God's sovereignty is clearly displayed through Saul's conversion and preparation for ministry guiding Peter to opening the Gospel to the Gentiles.



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# MOSES | HEBREWS 11:23-29 (WEEK 7)

## Groundwork

The opposition to faith is fear—fear that an act of faith would cost us more than we are willing to risk. Trusting God is risky business. The rich ruler feared risking his wealth. The mourning son feared what would happen if he did not properly bury his parent. What fears are keeping you from trusting God?

- Write them down.
- Share them with someone in your group.
- Seek God together through prayer and meditating on God's promises.

## Intended Outcome

Throughout his life, Moses and his family demonstrated tremendous faith in the midst of extreme circumstances.

## Group Discussion

1. Think of a time you had to faithfully rely on God's promises in a risky situation. What was the promise that you placed your hope in and how did God respond to your faith?
2. How was Moses' parents' decision to hide the baby an act of faith?
3. In what way did Moses suffer and what did his faith cost him? What does this teach us about faith?
4. Discuss what motivated Moses' faith and how is this connected to who Jesus is and what he has done?
5. What was Moses "looking ahead to" and how did that help his faith?
6. When is it hardest for you to trust God?
7. When are you most tempted to cling to the world instead of God?
8. Looking at Moses' example, what should be our response to someone who is struggling to remain faithful in difficult situations?

## Closing Prayer



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Read Psalm 31 together.

## Extended Study

Read Exodus 1-3 (Birth and Early Life); 11-12 (Passover); and 14 (Red Sea Crossing).



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# RAHAB | HEBREWS 11:30-31 (WEEK 8)

## Groundwork

Clearly Rahab's gift was hospitality. Biblical hospitality is welcoming and joyfully receives strangers—to provide sustenance, shelter, and fellowship. This week, consider how you can be hospitable to a stranger with the intention of displaying God's love through acts of kindness.

## Intended Outcome

To remember there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Therefore, you can live a life of freedom and faithful obedience to the God who saves.

## Group Discussion

1. Based on Romans 13:1-5, how is Rahab's rebellion against her king an act of faithfulness (consider also Acts 4:18-22 and 5:27-32).
2. As a group, discuss all of the risks Rahab was taking by helping the spies. Then discuss how her faith was rewarded.
3. What did Rahab know about God and his acts, and how did her knowledge of God impact her decision-making?
4. What made Rahab's faith extraordinary?
5. Do your past sins cause you to doubt your forgiveness and keep you from serving God? What encouragement does Rahab's life and legacy bring you?
6. What is one thing you will take away from Rahab's story?

## Closing Prayer

Ask the Lord to help you live in the freedom of your forgiveness.



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## Extended Study

Read 2 Samuel 12 and 1 Timothy 1.



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# FINISHING OUT FAITH | HEBREWS 11:32-40 (WEEK 9)

## Groundwork

Take time to walk through your neighborhood asking God to reveal ideas for displaying God's love through acts of kindness.

## Intended Outcome

Know, believe and function under the reality that faith overcomes everything.

## Group Discussion

1. Read Hebrews 11:32-40 together.
2. Discuss how God has spoken to you through this series.
3. Where are you on your faith journey? Encourage your group to share specific examples of why they see themselves in one of the following categories:
  - a. Thriving (vigorous growth, not perfection)
  - b. Growing (you have a plan and you see fruit)
  - c. Coasting (you desire growth but don't know where to start)
  - d. Regressing (either because of habitual sin or life circumstances)
  - e. Apathy (you couldn't care less either way)
4. What actions can you take to begin to see your faith maximized for the glory of God?
5. What is one way we as a group can be salt and light in our neighborhood?

## Closing Prayer

Pray that your faith would increase with the knowledge of God.

## Extended Study

Read Luke 12:36 and 22:32, Mark 9:24, and Ephesians 3:17.



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