
LIVING BY FAITH IN GOD

HEBREWS 11:1-40

Lean In

1. Who is your favorite OT character? How well did they do at exemplifying or living out faith in their lives?

Look Down

Read Hebrews 11:1-40

2. What is the theme of chapter 11? How does it relate to 10:38,39? (Think: What reward does 10:39 say believing leads to? How does this compare to the rewards people in ch. 11 received?)
3. In the definition and focus on faith in v.1 and v.6, what verbs describe faith? What is the object of these verbs? Is our faith directed toward the future, toward the present, or toward both? Toward God alone, or people as well? Why do you conclude this?
4. Write your own expanded definition of faith as you try to capture the meaning of v.1. How does v.3 illustrate this understanding of faith?
5. Explain how the “assurance of things hoped for” and the “conviction of things not seen” relates to the rest of Hebrews 11 as well as to the entire book of Hebrews.
6. Relate Abraham’s experience in verses 8-10 to verses 1-3 and verse 6. That is, how does Abraham’s experience in verses 8-10 illustrate the meaning of 11:1-3, 6?
7. The fact that the patriarchs of Hebrews 11:1-12 all died in faith was important to the epistle’s first readers. How much of the Promised Land did Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob own when they died? Given their earthly situation, what lesson does our author seek to convey to the book’s readers through their example?
8. Verses 24-29 illustrate four ways that Moses demonstrated faith in the light of the meaning of verses 1 and 6. List those four ways and discuss the implications of each. Note what was visible and what was invisible in each instance and identify why it took faith to follow God in each case.
9. How would you compare the faith of the named heroes and heroines who achieved greatness (vv. 20-35) with those unnamed persons who suffered grievously (vv. 35-38)?
10. What can we discover from verses 36-38 about following God? And how can we relate the lessons of verses 33-35 with those of 36-38?
11. Some Christians believe that faith always leads to material and physical blessing. What does this passage tell you about the role of both blessing and suffering for the faithful?

Look Out

12. Who are some contemporary heroes of faith who inspire you today?

Look In

13. Of the people mentioned in this section, who are you surprised to see and why? With whom do you feel you have the most in common and why? What does it mean that not all these people of faith met with “success”?
14. How do v.29-40 encourage you in the light of your own suffering and the questions that suffering brings on?
15. How patient or impatient am I in the face of God’s apparent inaction? In what specific ways can I utilize the lessons of Hebrews 11 to enable me to become more patient?

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16. What specific things can I do in my life to keep my eyes more on that city whose builder and maker is God and less on the city of this world's honour and glory?
 17. If God examined my life today, would He conclude that I am among the faithful? Why?