



GREAT CHAPTERS OF THE BIBLE



HEBREWS CHAPTER ELEVEN

How to Have Faith That Lasts

TAUGHT by TOM HOLLADAY

A four-session, video-based study for small groups



Great Chapters of the Bible

HEBREWS CHAPTER ELEVEN: How to Have Faith That Lasts

A Small Group Study Guide

Edition 1.0

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Why you not be accepted? But if
you do not do what is right, sin is
crouching at your door; it desires to
have you, but you must rule over it."



ABEL

1st Cor 3



UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDY GUIDE

Here is a brief explanation of the features of this study guide.

CHECKING IN: You will open each meeting with an opportunity for everyone to check in with each other about how you are doing with the weekly assignments. Accountability is a key to success in this study!



HEBREWS CHAPTER ELEVEN

KEY VERSE: Each week you will find a key verse or Scripture passage for your group to read together. If someone in the group has a different translation, ask that person to read it aloud so the group can get a bigger picture of the meaning of the passage.

VIDEO LESSON OUTLINE: There is a video lesson for the group to watch together each week. Fill in the blanks in the lesson outlines as you watch the video and be sure to refer back to these outlines during your discussion time.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS: Each video segment is complemented by several questions for group discussion. Please don't feel pressured to discuss every single question. There is no reason to rush through the answers. Give group members ample opportunity to share their thoughts. If you don't get through all of the discussion questions, that's okay.

LIVING ON PURPOSE: In his book *The Purpose Driven® Life*, Rick Warren identifies God's five purposes for our lives. The purposes are worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, and evangelism. We will focus on one of these purposes in each lesson and discuss how they relate to the subject of the study. This section is very important, so please be sure to set aside time.

PRAYER DIRECTION: At the end of each session, you will find suggestions for your group prayer time. Praying together is one of the greatest privileges of small group life. Please don't take it for granted.



A Tip for the Host

The study guide material is meant to be your servant, not your master. The point is not to race through the sessions, but to take time to let God work in your lives. It is not necessary to “go around the circle” before you move on to the next question. Give people the freedom to speak, but don’t insist on it or make it mandatory. Your group will enjoy deeper, more open sharing and discussion if people don’t feel pressured to speak.

RAHAB

By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.



GIDEON

The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites.



SAMSON

The woman gave birth to a boy and named him Samson. He grew and the Lord blessed him, and the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him while he was in Mahaneh Dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.



1040 BCE



DAVID

And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephtah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised, who shut the mouths

Then they burned the whole city and everything in it, but they put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron into the treasury of the Lord's house. But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho—and she lives among the Israelites to this day.

1162 BCE

The Lord turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?"



1075 BCE



HOW TO USE THIS VIDEO CURRICULUM

Follow these simple steps for a successful small group meeting:

- Open your group meeting by using the **Checking In** sections of your study guide.
- Have someone in the group read the **Key Verse** aloud.



HEBREWS CHAPTER ELEVEN

- Watch the video lesson together and follow along while filling in the blanks in the accompanying **Video Lesson Outline**. Each video is about 15 minutes long.
- Complete the rest of the discussion materials for each session. Be sure to review the **Living on Purpose** section that discusses how God's five purposes for our lives relate to the subject of the study. Commit to fulfilling any assignments before your next session.
- Close your time together by reviewing the **Prayer Direction** suggestions that follow.



How to Use this Interactive Study Guide

This study guide is designed to be used as a downloaded file on your tablet or phone. You do not need to print it out, unless you want to. Throughout the guide, you will see areas where you can type directly into the guide. There are also convenient links that direct you to external resources including Scripture passages on *BibleGateway.com*.

HELPFUL TIP

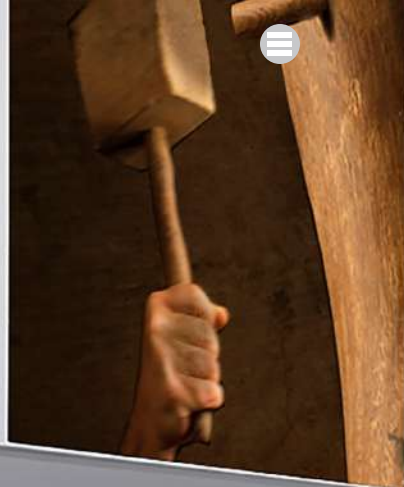
For the best experience on Android™ platforms, please view this interactive study on Adobe Acrobat Reader DC®.



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NOAH

By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.

ABRAHAM

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive inheritance, obeyed and went, though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made himself sojourn in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived by faith, trusting Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs of the same promise.

Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God. Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.

2066 BCE





SESSION 1:

HOW FAITH MAKES YOU DIFFERENT

*What Abel, Enoch, and Noah Teach Us
about Faith That Lasts*

HEBREWS 11:1–7

CHECKING IN

1. If you are meeting for the first time as a group, this is a great time to get to know each other. You might share where you were born, some info about your family and something that you love to do.

If you've been meeting for a while as a group, the start of a new study is a great time to catch up on how God is at work in each of your lives.

2. As you start a study together on faith, share one way you'd dream of personally growing in faith.



HEBREWS CHAPTER ELEVEN

Hebrews 11:1-7

KEY VERSE

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. HEBREWS 11:6 (NIV)

VIDEO LESSON OUTLINE

Watch the video lesson now and take notes in your study guide. Refer to your notes during group discussion.



HOW FAITH MAKES YOU DIFFERENT

What Abel, Enoch, and Noah Teach Us about Faith That Lasts

True faith is _____ .

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. HEBREWS 11:1-3, 6 (NIV84)



SESSION 1: How Faith Makes You Different

Hebrews 11:1-7

When you have faith that lasts, three things are true of you:

1. Faith is your _____ .

“... being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see . . . ” VERSE 1

2. Faith is your _____ .

“By faith we understand . . . ” VERSE 3

3. Pleasing God is your _____ .

“... without faith, it is impossible to please God.” VERSE 6

ABEL

People of faith have different _____ .

By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.

HEBREWS 11:4 (NIV84)

1. What gets my best?
2. Whose commendation am I living for?
3. What is my legacy?



HEBREWS CHAPTER ELEVEN

Hebrews 11:1-7

ENOCH

People of faith have a different _____ .

By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.

HEBREWS 11:5 (NIV84)

He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

MATTHEW 5:45b (NIV)

Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away. GENESIS 5:24 (NIV)

The more time you spend in an intimate relationship with the eternal God, the more your eyes will be on the eternal.

NOAH

People of faith have a different _____ .

By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. HEBREWS 11:7 (NIV84)

1. God's _____ motivated Noah's life.

"... when warned about things not yet seen ..."

VERSE 7



SESSION 1: How Faith Makes You Different

Hebrews 11:1-7

2. God's _____ and _____ motivated Noah's life.

"... in holy fear ..." VERSE 7

3. God's _____ motivated Noah's life.

"... to save his family ..." VERSE 7

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. Talk about a time in your life when your faith has served as your foundation, given you perspective, or determined your goals.
2. As we looked at Abel, we asked the question, "What gets my best?" How does that question challenge you as you consider what it means to live a life of faith?
3. Can you think of some circumstances in your life that you approached differently this past week because you were living on a "different timetable" of faith? Or were there circumstances that you would have faced differently if that had been your perspective?
4. What are some areas in your life where you'd like to be more motivated by faith?



HEBREWS CHAPTER ELEVEN

Hebrews 11:1-7

LIVING ON PURPOSE

EVANGELISM , DISCIPLESHIP, FELLOWSHIP, MINISTRY & WORSHIP

This week's focus is on fellowship.

Faith is not something that we grow all by ourselves; it grows in connection to others who are seeking to grow in faith. Take some time as you look forward to this study to talk about your mutual desire to grow in faith, and to specifically pray for each other's growth.

Make Romans 1:12 your theme verse as a group during this study:

*When we get together, I want to encourage you
in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by
yours. ROMANS 1:12 (NLT)*

You might want to memorize this verse together over the next few weeks.



SESSION 1: How Faith Makes You Different

PRAYER DIRECTION

As you pray for one another's growth, be sure to take time to pray for the hurts and challenges that those in your group are facing as well as to praise God for the victories.

Hebrews 11:1-7

AAH

warned about
in holy fear
his family. By faith
the world and
righteousness
th faith.

teous man,
g the people
he walked
God. Noah
Shem, Ham



ABRAHAM

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.



MOSES

By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.





SESSION 2:

HOW FAITH FACES CHALLENGES AND CHANGES

*What Abraham Teaches Us
about Faith That Lasts*

HEBREWS 11:8–19

CHECKING IN

1. Discuss and explore how being in a study together about faith might have caused you to see something with different eyes this last week. Did it inspire you to act differently than you would have acted without faith?
2. What are some of the challenges or changes that you are facing right now?



HEBREWS CHAPTER ELEVEN

Hebrews 11:8-19

KEY VERSE

By faith Abraham, even though he was past age—and Sarah herself was barren—was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. HEBREWS 11:11 (NIV84)

VIDEO LESSON OUTLINE

Watch the video lesson now and take notes in your study guide. Refer to your notes during group discussion.



HOW FAITH FACES CHALLENGES AND CHANGES

Abraham's Four Great Actions of Faith

1. He looked at the _____ instead of the _____.

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. HEBREWS 11:8 (NIV)



SESSION 2: How Faith Faces Challenges and Changes

Hebrews 11:8-19

How to step out:

- Look at the _____ and not the whole journey.
 - Look at _____ and not yourself .
2. He looked at the _____ instead of the _____ .

By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

HEBREWS 11:9-10 (NIV)

What can we learn from Abraham about finding strength to stay?

He built his _____ upon the foundations of the _____ .

3. He looked at the _____ instead of the _____ .

By faith Abraham, even though he was past age—and Sarah herself was barren—was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore. HEBREWS 11:11-12 (NIV84)



HEBREWS CHAPTER ELEVEN

Hebrews 11:8–19

Three sons are mentioned in Abraham's life:

- Eliezer (Genesis 15)
- Ishmael (Genesis 16)
- Isaac (Genesis 21)

Three ways we react when we must wait for God's promise:

- Eliezer: I'll have to _____ .

He took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

GENESIS 15:5 (NIV)

- Ishmael: I'll have to _____ .
- Isaac: I'll choose to _____ .

4. He looked at his _____ instead of his _____ .

By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death. HEBREWS 11:17–19 (NIV84)



SESSION 2: How Faith Faces Challenges and Changes

What Abraham Teaches Us about Faith That Lasts

Hebrews 11:8-19

God gives you successes so that you can offer them as

God sent Christ to be our sacrifice. Christ offered his life's blood, so that by faith in him we could come to God. ROMANS 3:25 (CEV)

Be full of love for others, following the example of Christ who loved you and gave himself to God as a sacrifice to take away your sins. EPHESIANS 5:2 (TLB)

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the “unknowns” that you see in front of you where you know you will need faith?
2. What would it look like for you to begin to “build your present on the foundations of the future?”
3. Talk about times when you might have been tempted to “settle for less” or “get it yourself” in your journey of faith.
4. Are there some specific sacrifices that you feel God is calling you to make? How could the group pray for you?



HEBREWS CHAPTER ELEVEN

Hebrews 11:8-19

LIVING ON PURPOSE

EVANGELISM , DISCIPLESHIP, FELLOWSHIP, MINISTRY & WORSHIP

This week we focus on the purpose of worship.

Take a journey of faith, and worship in your time with the Lord this week by reading through the story of Abraham from Genesis. Ask God to speak to your heart about faith.

DAY ONE	Genesis 12:1-8
DAY TWO	Genesis 12:10-19
DAY THREE	Genesis 15:1-6
DAY FOUR	Genesis 18:1-15
DAY FIVE	Genesis 21:1-7
DAY SIX	Genesis 22:1-19
DAY SEVEN	Romans 12:1-2



SESSION 2: How Faith Faces Challenges and Changes

PRAYER DIRECTION

Pray for the hurts and challenges that those in your group are facing, and praise God for the blessings he has given.

Hebrews 11:8-19



MOSES

By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.



ABRAHAM

With Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.



JERICHO

By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days.



1573 BCE

When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city.



SESSION 3:

HOW FAITH SAYS YES TO GOD

*What Moses Teaches Us
about Faith that Lasts*

HEBREWS 11:23–29

CHECKING IN

1. What did the Lord say to you as you read through the story of Abraham day by day this last week?
2. Have you ever faced a circumstance where someone tried to minimize or shame you because of your faith? How did that feel?



HEBREWS CHAPTER ELEVEN

Hebrews 11:23-29

KEY VERSE

He [Moses] regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. HEBREWS 11:26 (NIV)

VIDEO LESSON OUTLINE

Watch the video lesson now and take notes in your study guide. Refer to your notes during group discussion.



HOW FAITH SAYS YES TO GOD

What Moses Teaches Us about Faith that Lasts

1. Faith takes _____ .

By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

HEBREWS 11:23 (NIV)



SESSION 3: How Faith Says Yes to God

Hebrews 11:23-29

2. Faith says _____

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. HEBREWS 11:24-26 (NIV)

to the _____ and _____
of this world.

- God's _____ is more valuable than
_____.
- God's _____ are more valuable than
_____.
- God's _____ is more valuable than
_____.

3. Faith _____.

By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.
HEBREWS 11:27 (NIV)



HEBREWS CHAPTER ELEVEN

Hebrews 11:23–29

4. Faith does _____ .

By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel. HEBREWS 11:28 (NIV84)

5. Faith sees _____ .

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned. HEBREWS 11:29 (NIV)

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. Is there a risk that you feel God is asking you to take by faith?
2. Is there something that God is asking you to say no to by faith?
3. What areas in your life might you need to persevere by faith?
4. Is there a place where your faith is calling you to “do what God says”?
5. What miracle are you looking to God to bring about?



SESSION 3: How Faith Says Yes to God

Hebrews 11:23-29

LIVING ON PURPOSE

EVANGELISM , DISCIPLESHIP, FELLOWSHIP, MINISTRY & WORSHIP

This week we focus on the purpose of evangelism.

One of the greatest risks we take is when we share our faith with others. Share with your group a person that you've been praying would begin a relationship with Jesus. Pray as a group for one another that the Lord would open the door and give you the faith to take the risk to share.

PRAYER DIRECTION

Pray for the hurts and challenges that those in your group are facing, and praise God for the victories.

(If your group has more than eight members, consider breaking into subgroups of three or four for your prayer time. This will give each of you more opportunity to share and pray together.)

RAHAB

By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.



GIDEON

The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites.



SAMSON

The woman gave birth to a boy and named him Samson. He grew and the Lord blessed him, and the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him while he was in Mahaneh Dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.



1040 BCE



DAVID

And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephtah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths

Then they burned the whole city and everything in it, but they put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron into the treasury of the Lord's house. But Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho—and she lives among the Israelites to this day.

1162 BCE

The Lord turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?"



1075 BCE



SESSION 4:

**YOU CAN BE A PERSON OF GREAT FAITH
HEBREWS 11:20–22, 30–40**

CHECKING IN

1. Did anyone in your group have an opportunity to risk sharing their faith this last week?
2. How has God challenged you or grown you in your faith during this study of Hebrews 11?



HEBREWS CHAPTER ELEVEN

Hebrews 11:20-22, 30-40

KEY VERSE

These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

HEBREWS 11:39-40 (NIV84)

VIDEO LESSON OUTLINE

Watch the video lesson now and take notes in your study guide. Refer to your notes during group discussion.



YOU CAN BE A PERSON OF GREAT FAITH

Three Great Statements of Faith

1. God, _____.

By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future. HEBREWS 11:20 (NIV)

By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff. HEBREWS 11:21 (NIV)

By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions about his bones. HEBREWS 11:22 (NIV84)



SESSION 4: You Can Be a Person of Great Faith

Hebrews 11:20-22, 30-40

2. God, _____ .

By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient. HEBREWS 11:31 (NIV)

“We have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. When we heard of it, our hearts melted and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.” JOSHUA 2:10-11 (NIV84)

“Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you.” JOSHUA 2:12 (NIV)

3. God, _____ .

And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised. HEBREWS 11:32-33 (NIV84)



HANNAH: 1 Samuel 1–3

Waiting on God delivers God's best.

These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

HEBREWS 11:39–40 (NIV84)

Hebrews 11 gives us the definition of faith and the actions of faith.

- Definition of faith

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. HEBREWS 11:1 (NIV84)

- Actions people took because of their faith

understood (v. 3) ... offered (v. 4) decided ... built (v. 7) ...
 went (v. 8) ... trusted ... blessed (v. 20) ... saw (v. 23, 27) ...
 refused (v. 24) ... left (v. 27) ... persevered (v. 27) ...
 kept (v. 28) ... crossed (v. 29) ... marched (v. 30) ...
 welcomed (v. 31) ... conquered (v. 33) ... administered (v. 33) ...
 gained (v. 33) ... shut (v. 33) ... quenched (v. 34) ...
 escaped (v. 34) ... became powerful (v. 34) ... faced
 jeers (v. 36) ... and **all were commended.**



SESSION 4: You Can Be a Person of Great Faith

Hebrews 11:20-22, 30-40

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

1. Is there something that you feel God is asking you to do now as an expression of your trust in him for your future?
2. Where is it that you are needing to wait for God's promise? How could your group pray for you?
3. Look again at the actions that people took because of their faith in Hebrews 11. Share with each other one action that you desire to take out of your faith.

LIVING ON PURPOSE

EVANGELISM , DISCIPLESHIP, FELLOWSHIP, MINISTRY & WORSHIP

This week's focus is fellowship and ministry.

We talked in this study about the power of giving a blessing. End this study by giving each other the blessing of your encouragement. Go around the group and share with each person how you see that they are and can be a person of great faith. You might finish the sentence, "I see you as a person of faith when you . . ." or, "One way I see you growing in your faith is . . ."

PRAYER DIRECTION

Take some time to pray for one another's needs, and to pray that you will continue to grow in faith.

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"Why
face
s right,
but if
sin is
desires to
e over it."



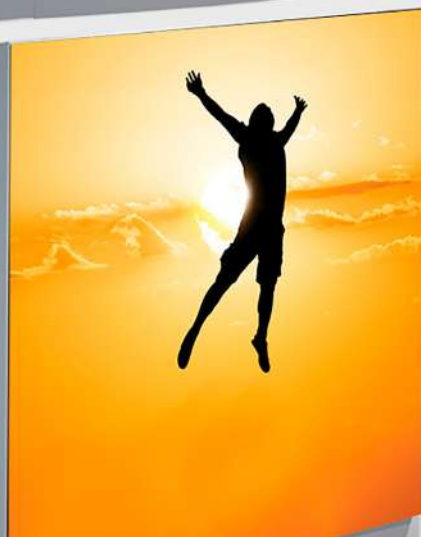
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t God a
Cain did.
nended
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ENOCH

For before he was taken, he was
commended as one who pleased God.
And without faith it is impossible
to please God, because anyone who
comes to him must believe that he
exists and that he rewards those who
earnestly seek him.

1910 BCE

By faith Enoch was taken
from this life, so that he did
not experience death: "He
could not be found, because
God had taken him away."

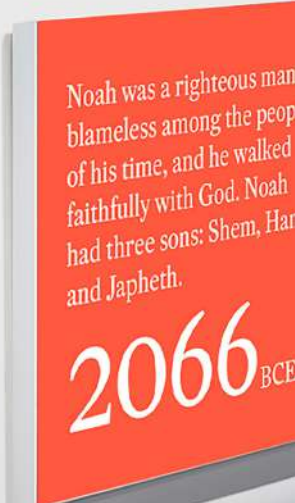
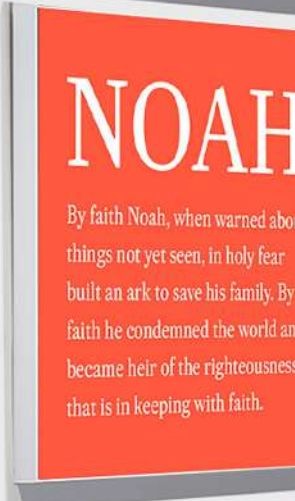


NOAH

By faith Noah, when warned about
things not yet seen, in holy fear
built an ark to save his family. By
faith he condemned the world and
became heir of the righteousness
that is in keeping with faith.

Noah was a righteous man,
blameless among the people
of his time, and he walked
faithfully with God. Noah
had three sons: Shem, Ham,
and Japheth.

2066 BCE





SMALLGROUP**RESOURCES**



HELPS FOR HOSTS

TOP TEN IDEAS FOR NEW HOSTS

Congratulations! As the host of your small group, you have responded to the call to help shepherd Jesus' flock. Few other tasks in the family of God surpass the contribution you will be making. As you prepare to facilitate your group, whether it is for one session or for the entire series, here are a few thoughts to keep in mind.

Remember, you are not alone. God knows everything about you, and he knew you would be asked to facilitate your group. You may not feel ready; this is a common feeling all good hosts have! God promises, *"I will never leave you; I will never abandon you"* (Hebrews 13:5 NCV). Whether you are facilitating for one evening, several weeks, or a lifetime, you will be blessed as you serve.

1. **DON'T TRY TO DO IT ALONE.** Pray right now for God to help you build a healthy team. If you can enlist a co-host to help you shepherd the group, you will find your experience much richer. This is your chance to involve as many people as you can in building a healthy group. All you have to do is to ask people to help. You'll be surprised at the response.
2. **BE FRIENDLY AND BE YOURSELF.** God wants to use your unique gifts and temperament. Be sure to greet people at the door with a big smile—this can set the mood for the whole gathering. Remember, they are taking as big of a step by showing up for this study as you are hosting a small group! Don't try to do things exactly like another host; do them in a way that fits you. Admit when you don't have an answer and apologize when you make a mistake. Your group will love you for it, and you'll sleep better at night.



3. **PREPARE FOR YOUR MEETING AHEAD OF TIME.** Review the session and write down your responses to each question. Pay special attention to the **Putting It into Practice** section that focuses on applying what you have learned in each lesson. This section will also help your group live what the Bible teaches, not just talk about it.
4. **PRAY FOR YOUR GROUP MEMBERS BY NAME.** Before your group arrives, take a few moments and pray for each member by name. Ask God to use your time together to touch the heart of each person in your group. Expect God to lead you to whomever he wants you to encourage or challenge in a special way. If you listen, God will surely lead.
5. **WHEN YOU ASK A QUESTION, BE PATIENT.** Someone will eventually respond. Sometimes people need a moment or two of silence to think about the question. If silence doesn't bother you, it won't bother anyone else. After someone responds, affirm the response with a simple, "Thanks," or, "Great answer." Then ask, "How about somebody else?" or, "Would someone who hasn't shared like to add anything?" Be sensitive to new people or reluctant members who aren't ready to say, pray, or do anything. If you give them a safe setting, they will blossom over time. If someone in your group is a wallflower who sits silently through every session, consider talking to that person privately and encouraging them to participate. Let them know how important they are to you—that they are loved and appreciated, and that the group would value their input. Remember, still water often runs deep.



HEBREWS CHAPTER ELEVEN

6. **PROVIDE TRANSITIONS BETWEEN QUESTIONS.** Ask if anyone would like to read the paragraph or Bible passage. Don't call on anyone, but ask for a volunteer, and then be patient until someone begins. Be sure to thank the person who reads aloud.
7. **BREAK INTO SMALLER GROUPS OCCASIONALLY.** With a greater opportunity to talk in a small circle, people will connect more with the study, apply more quickly what they're learning, and ultimately get more out of their small group experience. A small circle also encourages a quiet person to participate and tends to minimize the effects of a more vocal or dominant member.
8. **SMALL CIRCLES ARE ALSO HELPFUL DURING PRAYER TIME.** People who are unaccustomed to praying aloud will feel more comfortable trying it with just two or three others. Also, prayer requests won't take as much time, so circles will have more time to actually pray. When you gather back with the whole group, you can have one person from each circle briefly update everyone on the prayer requests from their subgroups. The other great aspect of subgrouping is that it fosters leadership development. As you ask people in the group to facilitate discussion or to lead a prayer circle, it gives them a small leadership step that can build their confidence.
9. **ROTATE FACILITATORS OCCASIONALLY.** You may be perfectly capable of hosting each time, but you will help others grow in their faith and gifts if you give them opportunities to host the group.



10. **ONE FINAL CHALLENGE (FOR NEW OR FIRST-TIME HOSTS).** Before your first opportunity to lead, look up each of the six passages listed below. Read each one as a devotional exercise to help prepare you with a shepherd's heart. Trust us on this one. If you do this, you will be more than ready for your first meeting.

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore to send out workers into his harvest field." MATTHEW 9:36–38 (NIV)

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep."
JOHN 10:14–15 (NIV)

Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.
1 PETER 5:2–4 (NIV)



Therefore, if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 2:1–5 (NIV)

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. HEBREWS 10:23–25 (NIV)

But we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us . . . For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

1 THESSALONIANS 2:7–8, 11–12 (NIV84)



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW LONG WILL THIS GROUP MEET?

This study is five sessions long. We encourage your group to add an extra session for a celebration. In your final session, each group member may decide if he or she desires to continue on for another study. At that time, you may also want to do some informal evaluation, discuss your group guidelines, and decide which study you want to do next. We recommend you visit saddleback.com/watch for more video-based small group studies.

WHO IS THE HOST?

The host is the person who coordinates and facilitates your group meetings. In addition to a host, we encourage you to select one or more group members to lead your group discussions. Several other responsibilities can be rotated, including refreshments, prayer requests, worship, or keeping up with those who miss a meeting. Shared ownership in the group helps everyone grow.

WHERE DO WE FIND NEW GROUP MEMBERS?

Recruiting new members can be a challenge for groups, especially new groups with just a few people, or existing groups that lose a few people along the way. We encourage you to use the **Circles of Influence** diagram on page 49 of this study guide to brainstorm a list of people from your workplace, church, school, neighborhood, family, and so on. Then pray for the people on each member's list. Allow each member to invite several people from their list. Some groups fear that newcomers will interrupt the intimacy that members have built over time. However, groups that welcome newcomers generally gain strength with the infusion of "new



blood.” Remember, the next person you add just might become a friend for eternity. Logistically, groups find different ways to add members. Some groups remain permanently open, while others choose to open periodically, such as at the beginning or end of a study. If your group becomes too large for easy, face-to-face conversations, you can subgroup, forming a second discussion group in another room.

HOW DO WE HANDLE THE CHILDCARE NEEDS IN OUR GROUP?

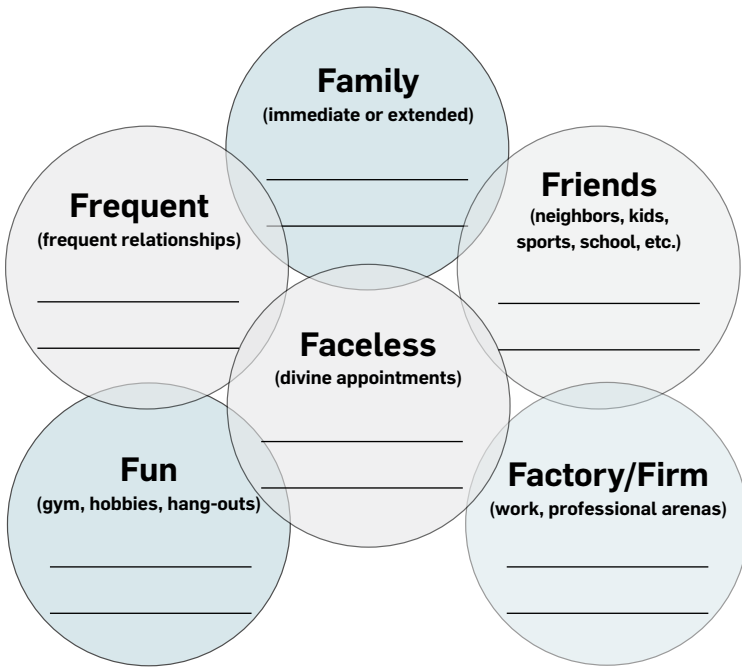
Childcare needs must be handled very carefully. This is a sensitive issue. We suggest you seek creative solutions as a group. One common solution is to have the adults meet in the living room and share the cost of a babysitter (or two) who can be with the kids in another part of the house. Another popular option is to have one supervised home for the kids and a second home (close by) for the adults. If desired, the adults could rotate the responsibility of providing a lesson for the kids. This last option is great with school-age kids and can be a huge blessing to families.



CIRCLES OF INFLUENCE

DISCOVER WHO YOU CAN CONNECT IN COMMUNITY

Use this chart to help carry out one of the values in the **Small Group Guidelines**, to “Welcome Newcomers.”



Follow this simple three-step process:

1. List one to two people in each circle.
2. Prayerfully select one person or couple from your list and tell your group about them.
3. Give them a call and invite them to your next meeting. Over fifty percent of those invited to a small group say, “Yes!”



SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES

It's a good idea for every group to put words to their shared values, expectations, and commitments. Such guidelines will help you avoid unspoken agendas and unmet expectations. We recommend you discuss your guidelines during your meeting in order to lay the foundation for a healthy group experience. Feel free to modify anything that does not work for your group.

We agree to the following values:

CLEAR PURPOSE	To grow healthy spiritual lives by building a healthy small group community
GROUP ATTENDANCE	To give priority to the group meeting (call if I am absent or late)
SAFE ENVIRONMENT	To create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved (no quick answers, snap judgments, or simple fixes)
BE CONFIDENTIAL	To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group
CONFLICT RESOLUTION	To avoid gossip and to immediately resolve any concerns by following the principles of Matthew 18:15–17
SPIRITUAL HEALTH	To give group members permission to speak into my life and help me live a healthy, balanced spiritual life that is pleasing to God



- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| LIMIT OUR FREEDOM | To limit our freedom by not serving or consuming alcohol during small group meetings or events so as to avoid causing a weaker brother or sister to stumble (1 Corinthians 8:1–13; Romans 14:19–21) |
| WELCOME NEWCOMERS | To invite friends who might benefit from this study and warmly welcome newcomers |
| BUILD RELATIONSHIPS | To get to know the other members of the group and pray for them regularly |

OTHER _____

We have also discussed and agree on the following items:

CHILD CARE _____

STARTING TIME _____

ENDING TIME _____

If you haven't already done so, take a few minutes to fill out the **Small Group Calendar** on page 53.



OUR PRAYERS AND PRAISE

This is a place where you can write each other’s requests for prayer. You can also make a note when God answers a prayer. Pray for each other’s requests. If you’re new to group prayer, it’s okay to pray silently or to pray by using just one sentence:

“God, please help _____ to _____.”

Date	Person	Prayer Request	Praise Report



SMALL GROUP CALENDAR

Healthy groups share responsibilities and group ownership. It might take some time for this to develop. Shared ownership ensures that responsibility for the group doesn't fall to one person. Use the calendar to keep track of social events, mission projects, birthdays, or days off. Complete this calendar at your first or second meeting. Planning ahead will increase attendance and shared ownership.

Date	Lesson	Location	Facilitator	Snack/Meal
	SESSION 1			
	SESSION 2			
	SESSION 3			
	SESSION 4			

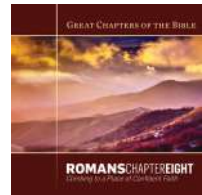


MORE STUDIES

Thanks for being a part of this study of Hebrews 11. Your group might want to consider doing one of our other Great Chapters of the Bible studies taught by Tom Holladay.

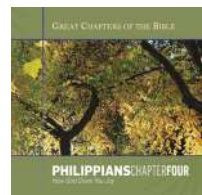
ROMANS CHAPTER EIGHT: CLIMBING TO A PLACE OF CONFIDENT FAITH

Take a journey together with your small group to greater faith! If you've ever had feelings like, "I'm not good enough," "I'm never going to change," or "Life is too hard," Romans 8 is the chapter for you! Pastor Tom Holladay teaches this video series beginning at the bottom and moving to the top of Saddleback Mountain through each of the four sessions to help us see clearly the journey from doubt to faith — from discouragement to hope—that God has for us.



PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER FOUR: HOW GOD GIVES YOU JOY

Focus on how to experience God's joy in the midst of the realities of life. In this study, you'll have the opportunity to see how the very things that try to steal our joy are the very places that God wants to work to give us joy. In a world where there are too many fake smiles, your group will have the opportunity to encourage each other towards real joy.





2 CORINTHIANS CHAPTER FOUR: HOW TO NOT LOSE HEART

We are all tempted to lose heart at times. Even Jesus talks about having a troubled heart before he went to the cross (John 12:27). 2 Corinthians 4 is honest about the emotions we face in this struggle and encourages us to not lose heart amidst the pressures and problems that are a part of all of our lives. In this study, your group will have the opportunity to encourage each other as you discuss God's direction for not losing heart in our attitude toward others, ourselves, and God—and how endurance is key to living as Jesus did.





ANSWER KEY

SESSION 1

HOW FAITH MAKES YOU DIFFERENT

What Abel, Enoch, and Noah Teach Us About Faith That Lasts

True faith is FAITH THAT LASTS.

1. Faith is your FOUNDATION.
2. Faith is your PERSPECTIVE.
3. Pleasing God is your GOAL.

ABEL

People of faith have different VALUES.

ENOCH

People of faith have a different TIMETABLE.

NOAH

People of faith have a different MOTIVATION.

1. God's WORD motivated Noah's life.
2. God's CHARACTER and POWER motivated Noah's life.
3. God's GIFTS motivated Noah's life.

SESSION 2

HOW FAITH FACES CHALLENGES AND CHANGES

Abraham's Four Great Actions of Faith

1. He looked at the KNOWN instead of the UNKNOWN.

How to step out:

- Look at the FIRST STEP and not the whole journey.
- Look at GOD and not yourself.

2. He looked at the FUTURE instead of the PRESENT.

He built his PRESENT upon the foundations of the FUTURE.

3. He looked at the PROMISE instead of the PROBLEMS.

- Eliezer: I'll have to SETTLE FOR LESS.
- Ishmael: I'll have to GET IT MYSELF.
- Isaac: I'll choose to TRUST IN GOD.

4. He looked at his CONFIDENCE instead of his CONFUSION.

God gives you successes so that you can offer them as SACRIFICES.



SESSION 3

HOW FAITH SAYS YES TO GOD

*What Moses Teaches Us
about Faith That Lasts*

1. Faith takes GOD-ORDAINED RISKS.
2. Faith says NO to the PLEASURES and TREASURES of this world.
 - God's PURPOSE is more valuable than POPULARITY.
 - God's PEOPLE are more valuable than PLEASURES.
 - God's PROMISE is more valuable than POSSESSIONS.
3. Faith PERSEVERES.
4. Faith does WHAT GOD SAYS.
5. Faith sees GOD DO MIRACLES.

SESSION 4

YOU CAN BE A PERSON OF GREAT FAITH

Three Great Statements of Faith

1. God, THE FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS.
2. God, I CAN TRUST YOU WHATEVER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.
3. God, I WILL WAIT FOR YOUR PROMISE.

Why you not be accepted? But if
you do not do what is right, sin is
crouching at your door; it desires to
have you, but you must rule over it."



ABEL

1st Cor 3



KEY VERSES

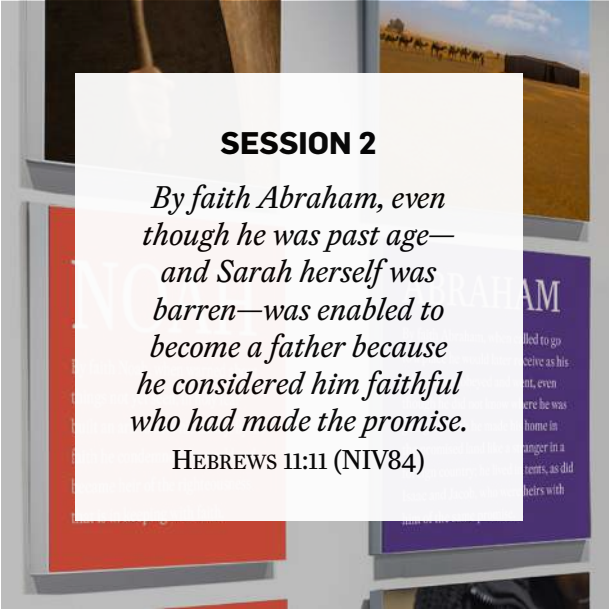
Feel free to save these key verse images to share on your social platforms or as a lock screen on your handheld device.



SESSION 1

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

HEBREWS 11:6 (NIV)



SESSION 2

By faith Abraham, even though he was past age—and Sarah herself was barren—was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise.

HEBREWS 11:11 (NIV84)



SESSION 3

He [Moses] regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

HEBREWS 11:26 (NIV)

SESSION 4

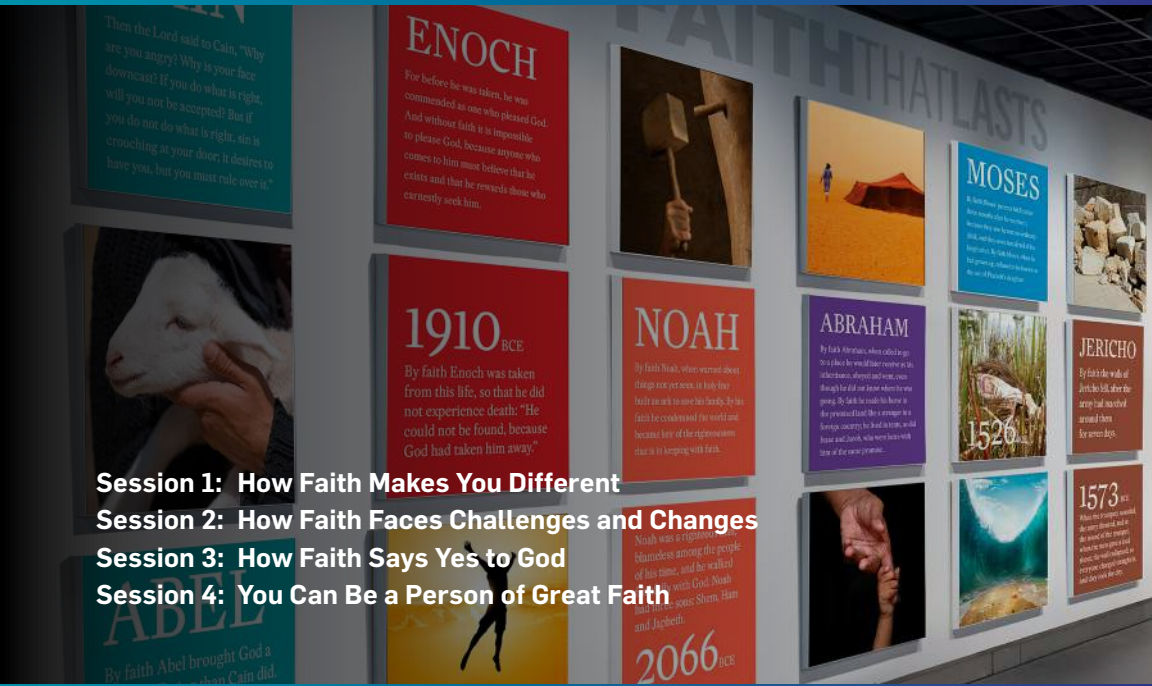
These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

HEBREWS 11:39–40 (NIV84)



HEBREWS CHAPTER ELEVEN

How to Have Faith That Lasts



Session 1: How Faith Makes You Different

Session 2: How Faith Faces Challenges and Changes

Session 3: How Faith Says Yes to God

Session 4: You Can Be a Person of Great Faith

Great Chapters of the Bible is a video-based, small group series that will take your group in a verse-by-verse study through some of the most life-changing truths in God's Word.

There are certain chapters of the Bible—some more than others—that speak to our hearts and minds in an especially deep way. Each volume in this series goes into one chapter to draw out the life change that awaits us in these passages.



Tom Holladay

HEBREWS CHAPTER ELEVEN: When a chapter in the Bible has a name like "The Faith Chapter," it's no secret what a study of that chapter will reveal and encourage. Yet this is a chapter that will take you in unexpected directions.

You can put away any cardboard cutout ideas about faith. This is a chapter about how real faith is at work with real people.

You can stop feeling like this is someone else's story. Hebrews 11 shows us how imperfect people struggle their way to genuine trust in God through the ups and downs of life.

Faith is not a lonely mountain climb; it is more a shared journey through often treacherous waters. Studying Hebrews 11 together will remind your group that you are not alone in the struggles and will encourage a greater faith than you could possibly have on your own.



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