

**BRIARCLIFF CHURCH**  
**Small Group Study Guide: Hebrews**  
Week of November 9 (Week 10)  
Hebrews: (11)



## CHAPTER 11 SUMMARY

Hebrews chapter 11, known as the "Hall of Faith," provides a convincing explanation of faith and demonstrates its power through the stories of biblical heroes. The chapter begins with a strong description of faith: "...assurance of things hoped for, conviction of things not seen." The author goes on to provide a number of examples from the Old Testament that exemplify faith in God. These individuals include Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David and Samuel, all of whom displayed steadfast faith in God's promises in the face of adversity.

## SERMON DISCUSSION

Topic:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

## OBSERVING AND APPLYING THE TEXT

### The Description of Faith (11:1-3)

The Preacher (writer of Hebrews) is not writing a dogmatics. He is preaching a sermon and he crafts a working definition of faith that will serve his immediate sermonic goals. Instead of providing a comprehensive definition, the Preacher simply names those aspects of faith he hopes to encourage. (Thomas G. Long, Hebrews, 128).

1. How does the writer of Hebrews describe faith in verses 1-3?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What's the difference between biblical faith and mere optimism?

3. How does the definition and description of faith in Heb. 11:1-3 challenge or affirm your current understanding of faith?

### **The Demonstration of Faith (11:4-40)**

At first, it seems that the writer of Hebrews is simply moving chronologically through the Bible, picking out names almost at random. But if we stand back from the list, another pattern emerges. The names cluster into four groups that foreshadow one of the faithful virtues that comes to perfection in Jesus. (Long, Hebrews, 130).

4. In verses 4-7, what does the writer of Hebrews say about the faith of Abel, Enoch, and Noah?
5. What does Noah's obedience teach us about trusting God in the face of ridicule or uncertainty?
6. What aspect of faith does the writer of Hebrews talk about regarding Abraham, Sarah, Isaac and Jacob in verses 8-16?
7. What does the story of Abraham, Sarah, Isaac and Jacob teach us about waiting on God's promises?

8. In verses 17-28, the writer mentions Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and Moses. What aspect of faith is he pointing out in these verses?

9. In Heb. 11:32-38, we read about many who endured suffering for their faith. How do you respond to trials? What can you learn from their perseverance?

10. Which character in Hebrews 11 inspires you most, and why?

11. How has your faith helped you reject worldly approval and seek God's?

12. What are some practical ways to grow in faith like the people mentioned?

## PRAYER

### PRAYER GUIDE November 10-14, 2025 Read Hebrews 11

**Monday:** 11:1 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Lord, help me believe in something I can't see. Strengthen my faith, so I can walk boldly in your promises, even when the way is unclear.

**Tuesday** 11: 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.” Father, I want to live a life that pleases you. Teach me to live closely with you, as Enoch did, confident that you will reward those who seek you.

**Wednesday:** 11: 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.” God, give me the courage to follow you even when the rest of the world does not understand. Let my actions demonstrate my belief in your word.

**Thursday:** 11: 11-12 “By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup> 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.” Lord, remind me of your might when it seems impossible. Give me faith that you can bring life and purpose out of a barren place.

**Friday:** 11:32-38 “They endured trials, persecution, and suffering.” Strengthen me in the face of adversity, God of endurance. Knowing you are my reward, may I continue to be faithful like those who suffered for your name.