



Living like it's
true



A JOURNEY THROUGH
HEBREWS 11



LIFE
GROUPS
WEEK 4 • SEPT 6

NORTHSHORE'S COMPELLING STATEMENT

Hope changes everything.

ICE BREAKER

What is one thing that you always look forward to every year?

BACKGROUND

Hebrews 11 gives us the definition of faith: *the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen* (v. 1). All throughout the chapter, person after person is named for their extraordinary example of faith in what they could not see. They lived knowing that *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* (v. 6).

They were focused on what God was building for them, not on the world's cheap imitation of it, because God had already promised that there was something greater coming. *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* (v. 16). Even though the Old Testament saints only had a glimpse into God's eternal plan of salvation for the world, they had enough to trust His promise until the very end.

The outcome of their faith was incredible, *who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 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* (vv. 33-34) and more. And just as incredible, *[o]thers suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment* (v. 36) and much more. Those who endured were people of *whom the world was not worthy . . .* (v. 38). The faith that brings about awe-inspiring miracles is the same faith that carries us through the hardest times of our lives.

REVIEW

What was meaningful from the above context or the sermon from last Sunday?



KEY VERSES: Hebrews 12:1

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.

READ: Hebrews 11:39-12:2



HEAD LEVEL: *What does it say? These help us to examine what the Word tells us.*

1. Verse 39 says that *all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised*; who is this verse talking about? What was promised to them?
2. Review the *cloud of witnesses* in chapter 11. Have each member of your group name one person from the chapter and give the reason why they were considered a great witness.
3. How did Jesus endure the cross, according to Hebrews 12:2?

DEEPER DISCOVERY:

Hebrews 11:32 mentions these Old Testament figures, but does not go into detail about them. How did they demonstrate their faith?

- Gideon - Judges 6-8
- Barak - Judges 4-5
- Samson - Judges 13-16
- Jephthah - Judges 11-12



HEART LEVEL: *What does it mean? These questions help us shape our beliefs around the objective truth of God's word.*

1. Why did the people mentioned in 11:39 not receive what was promised?
2. How do the actions that we are called to in Hebrews 12:1-2 relate to everything mentioned in chapter 11? How does reading through chapter 11 motivate you to do these actions?
3. What was the *joy that was set before* (v. 12:2) Jesus? What does it mean that Jesus was *despising the shame* of the cross?



HANDS LEVEL: *What does it mean to me? These questions help us commit to live out the truth in our everyday lives and commit to potential next steps.*

1. Where has your focus been this last week? How can Hebrews 11 help you fix your gaze on *Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith* (12:2)?
2. What weight or sin do you need to lay aside that has been diminishing your faith?
3. How can you apply the same methods of endurance as Jesus on the cross (Hebrews 12:2)? Is there anything that you are enduring that you would like the group to be praying for?



MEMORY VERSE: Hebrews 12:2

...looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

(Please remember that these requests are confidential and need to stay within the group.)