

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week of October 18

FAITH'S CHILDREN

Hebrews 11:11–12

MAIN POINT

God keeps His promises through faith—even imperfect faith—and all who trust Christ become part of the countless children born from that faith.

KEY SENTENCE:

God keeps His promises through faith—faith that wavers, grows, and rests in His faithfulness.

LOOK → UNDERSTAND → CONNECT → APPLY → PRAY

LOOK — What does God's Word say?

Read Hebrews 11:11–12 together.

1. What do these verses tell us about Sarah's faith and God's promise to her? (Recall from the sermon that all major Bible translations have Sarah as the subject of verse 11, including the 2011 NIV. The 1984 NIV has Abraham as the subject.)

Leader follow-up:

- What made God's promise of a child seem impossible from a human perspective?
- What does the passage say Sarah believed about the One who made the promise?
- What does this teach us about the relationship between faith and God's faithfulness?

2. Verse 12 describes descendants as numerous as the stars and the sand on the seashore. Why is this significant, considering how unlikely God's promise initially seemed?

Leader follow-up:

- How does the fulfillment of this promise demonstrate God's power?
- What does this teach us about what God can accomplish through circumstances that seem impossible to us?

Leader Note: The emphasis is not on Sarah's ability to make the promise happen. It is on God's faithfulness and power. What seemed impossible from a human perspective was accomplished because God kept His word.

UNDERSTAND — What does it mean?
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3. Hebrews 11:11 says Sarah "considered him faithful who had promised." What does it mean to consider God faithful?

Leader follow-up:

- How is trusting God's character different from simply hoping things will turn out the way we want?
- How can remembering God's character help us when His promises seem difficult to believe?

4. Sarah's story includes both faith and failure. She trusted God, but at one point she also tried to secure a child through Hagar (Genesis 16). What does her story teach us about imperfect faith?

Leader follow-up:

- Why might we be tempted to take matters into our own hands when God's promises seem delayed?
- How can doubt lead us to make decisions that create additional problems?
- Does our failure mean God must abandon His promises? What does Sarah's story show us?

Leader Note: Sarah's story does not present her as someone who never struggled or doubted. She made serious mistakes, yet God remained faithful to His covenant. This is not an excuse for disobedience; it is a reminder that God's faithfulness rests on His character, not our perfection.

5. Read 2 Timothy 2:13. How does this verse help us understand God's faithfulness when our faith wavers?

Leader follow-up:

- What comfort do you find in knowing that God remains faithful?

- How might this encourage someone who is struggling with doubt or has failed spiritually?
- How can we rely on God's faithfulness without becoming careless about our own obedience?

Leader Note: God's faithfulness is a source of hope for struggling believers. It does not make our choices unimportant; rather, it reminds us that our confidence ultimately rests in God's unchanging character.

CONNECT — How does it connect to our lives?
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6. Have you ever struggled to trust God's promises because your circumstances seemed to contradict them? What made trusting Him difficult?

Leader follow-up:

- What were you tempted to believe about God during that time?
- Did you find yourself trying to control the situation or force an outcome?
- What helped you continue trusting God—or what do you wish had helped you?

7. Sarah's faith grew through a long period of waiting. Why can waiting on God be so difficult?

Leader follow-up:

- How do delays affect our patience and confidence in God?
- Why might we confuse God's timing with God's absence?
- What can help us remain faithful when we don't know how long we will have to wait?

Leader Note: Sarah's experience reminds us that faith does not always mean feeling confident every moment. Faith can involve wrestling with uncertainty while continuing to learn to trust the God who has promised.

8. Sarah's story includes both courage and failure. How does knowing that God remained faithful to her affect the way you think about your own failures?

Leader follow-up:

- Are you more likely to hide your failures, dwell on them, or bring them honestly before God?

- How can God's grace give us courage to repent and begin again?
- How can we encourage fellow believers who are struggling without minimizing the seriousness of sin?

APPLY — What will we do with it?

9. Where are you currently struggling to trust God's character or timing? What would it look like to place that situation in His hands?

Leader follow-up:

- What specifically makes it difficult to trust Him?
- What truth about God's character do you need to remember?
- What is one practical step you can take this week to respond in faith?

10. Is there an area of your life where you are tempted to take matters into your own hands rather than wait on God?

Leader follow-up:

- What are you trying to control or force?
- Is there a difference between faithfully taking action and trying to make God's promise happen on your own terms?
- What would trusting God look like in this situation?

11. How can Sarah's story help you respond when your faith feels weak or inconsistent?

Leader follow-up:

- What can you remind yourself about God's character when doubt arises?
- Who could encourage you to keep trusting Him?
- How can you continue taking faithful steps even when your confidence feels imperfect?

Leader Note: The key is not to manufacture stronger feelings of faith. It is to direct our faith toward the God who is faithful. Encourage the group to identify a specific truth about God's character they can remember when doubt or discouragement comes.

PRAY — How should we pray about it?
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Share briefly:

- Where do you need to trust God's faithfulness more deeply?
- Where are you struggling with waiting on God's timing?
- Where do you need to receive God's grace and return to faithful obedience?

Pray for one another:

Ask God to help us trust His character and promises, remain faithful when the future is uncertain, repent when we try to take matters into our own hands, and rest in His grace when our faith is imperfect. Thank Him that His promises depend on His faithfulness and that our ultimate hope is fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Pray also for other requests, needs, and praises mentioned by group members.