

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week of October 25

FAITH UNASHAMED

Hebrews 11:13–16

MAIN POINT

Enduring faith looks beyond this world to God’s promised homeland and lives unashamed of belonging to Him.

KEY SENTENCE

Enduring faith looks beyond this world—and God delights to be called the God of those who trust Him.

LOOK → UNDERSTAND → CONNECT → APPLY → PRAY

LOOK — What does God's Word say?

Read Hebrews 11:13–16 together.

1. What do these verses tell us about how Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, and Jacob lived and died by faith?

Leader follow-up:

- What had God promised them that they did not fully receive during their lifetimes?
- How did they respond to promises they could see only “from a distance” (v.13)?
- What does it mean to welcome God’s promises even before we see them fulfilled?

2. According to verses 14–16, what were the patriarchs seeking, and what did God promise to prepare for them?

Leader follow-up:

- Why did they consider themselves “strangers and exiles on the earth” (v.13)?
- What made the country they were seeking better than their former homeland?
- What does it tell us about their faith that they refused to turn back?

Leader Note: Help the group see that the patriarchs’ faith was not based on receiving everything God promised in their lifetimes. They trusted God’s word and looked forward to what He would ultimately fulfill.

UNDERSTAND — What does it mean?

3. Hebrews 11:13 says the patriarchs “saw” God’s promises from a distance and welcomed them. Read John 8:56. How did Abraham look forward to something greater than his own lifetime?

Leader follow-up:

- What does Jesus’ statement suggest about Abraham’s anticipation of the coming Messiah?
- How can someone trust and rejoice in a promise before seeing its full fulfillment?
- How does looking forward to Christ help us understand the patriarchs’ faith?

4. Why was it important that the patriarchs refused to return to their former homeland, even when opportunities arose?

Leader follow-up:

- What might have made returning to their old home seem attractive?
- How did their decisions demonstrate where their hope was anchored?
- What is the difference between enjoying the good things of this world and treating this world as our ultimate home?

Leader Note: The patriarchs’ example is not a call to reject ordinary earthly blessings. Rather, their hope in God’s future shaped their present decisions and kept earthly security from becoming their ultimate goal.

5. Verse 16 says that God “is not ashamed to be called their God.” What does this reveal about God’s relationship with those who trust Him?

Leader follow-up:

- Why is it significant that God willingly identifies Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?
- What does this tell us about God’s pleasure in their faith?
- How might this truth encourage someone who feels insignificant or uncertain in their faith?

CONNECT — How does it connect to our lives?

6. Have you ever had to keep trusting God when you could not see how or when He would fulfill His promises?

Leader follow-up:

- What made it difficult to keep trusting?
- Were you tempted to measure God's faithfulness by your immediate circumstances?
- What helped you continue trusting Him?

7. In what ways can we begin to live as though this world is our permanent home?

Leader follow-up:

- How can comfort, success, possessions, or security become too important to us?
- What might it look like to enjoy God's gifts without putting our ultimate hope in them?
- How should the promise of God's future shape the way we live today?

8. How does knowing that God is not ashamed to be called our God change the way we think about our relationship with Him?

Leader follow-up:

- Do you tend to approach God with confidence in His grace or with fear that He is disappointed in you? Or do you experience both at times?
- How does belonging to God provide security when your circumstances or feelings change?
- How could this truth help you encourage another believer who is struggling?

APPLY — What will we do with it?

9. What is one area of your life where you need to look beyond immediate circumstances and trust God's larger promises?

Leader follow-up:

- What makes it difficult to see beyond the present?
- Which truth about God or His promises do you need to remember?
- What is one practical step you can take this week to live by faith?

10. What is one earthly pursuit, fear, or source of security that competes with your hope in God's promised future?

Leader follow-up:

- How might this influence your decisions or priorities?
- What would it look like to hold this thing more loosely?
- How could remembering your true home change your response?

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

- Where do you need to keep trusting God even though you cannot yet see the outcome?
- What earthly concern tends to distract you from your hope in Him?
- How does knowing that God delights to be called your God encourage you today?

Pray for one another:

Ask God to strengthen your faith when His promises seem distant, help you live faithfully without making this world your ultimate home, and deepen your hope in the future He has prepared. Thank Him for the privilege of belonging to Him and for the fulfillment of His promises in Christ.

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