

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Look→Understand→Connect→Apply→Pray

Week of September 13

FAITH IMMORTAL

Hebrews 11:4–6

MAIN POINT

Abel and Enoch achieved lasting significance not through extraordinary accomplishments but through faith, which alone pleases God and secures His commendation.

KEY SENTENCE:

Abel and Enoch show that faith, not achievement, is what secures God's commendation and leaves an enduring testimony.

1. LOOK — What does God's Word say?

Read Hebrews 11:4–6 together.

1. What does Hebrews tell us about Abel's faith and the sacrifice he offered to God?

Leader follow-up:

- What does Abel's sacrifice reveal about his relationship with God?
- Why do you think Hebrews emphasizes that Abel acted "by faith"?
- What does Abel's example teach us about the difference between outward religious activity and genuine faith?

Leader Note: The emphasis is not simply that Abel brought a sacrifice, but that he brought it *by faith*. His offering revealed trust in God and a heart rightly oriented toward Him. The discussion should help people see that genuine faith is more than outward religious activity.

2. What does Hebrews tell us about Enoch? What made his life pleasing to God?

Leader follow-up:

- What does it mean that Enoch "walked with God" (Gen. 5:24)?
 - What do you think a life that consistently walks with God looks like?
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2. UNDERSTAND — What does it mean?

3. Verse 6 says, "Without faith it is impossible to please God." Why do you think faith is so essential to our relationship with God?

Leader follow-up:

- What does our faith reveal about the way we view God?
- Why isn't simply doing religious or morally good things enough?
- How does faith demonstrate that we are trusting God rather than ourselves?

4. According to verse 6, what are the two things someone must believe about God in order to draw near to Him?

Leader follow-up:

- Believing that God “exists” isn’t simply believing in the existence of *a* god, but in the existence of *this* God (i.e., the God of the author of Hebrews). What does believing in the existence of *this* God entail (as opposed to generic belief in *a* god)?
- What does it mean to "earnestly seek him"?
- Given the context of Hebrews 11, how should we understand “rewards”?

5. Abel and Enoch had dramatically different experiences: Abel was murdered, while Enoch was taken from this life without experiencing death. What does this teach us about what faith does—and does not—guarantee?

Leader follow-up:

- Why is it important that faith doesn't necessarily result in earthly comfort, success, or deliverance?
- How might this correct the idea that "if I just have enough faith, God will make everything work out the way I want"?

Leader Note: Abel and Enoch experienced very different earthly outcomes. Abel was murdered, while Enoch was taken from this life without experiencing death. Both, however, were commended by God. The point is that faith does not guarantee earthly comfort or deliverance; its foundation is God’s approval, not a particular outcome.

3. CONNECT — How does this connect to our lives?

6. The sermon emphasized that Abel and Enoch are remembered not primarily because of what happened to them, but because of their faith. Where are you tempted

**to measure your significance by your accomplishments, success, or recognition?
Why?**

Leader follow-up:

- Why is it so easy to compare our lives with other people's accomplishments?
- How might remembering God's commendation change the way we think about success?
- What would it look like to pursue God's approval rather than the approval of others?

**7. Abel's testimony continues to speak even though he lived thousands of years ago.
What kind of spiritual legacy do you want your life to leave behind?**

Leader follow-up:

- What do you hope your children, friends, coworkers, or church family remember about your faith?
- Are there areas where you are currently building a reputation rather than a testimony?
- What would it mean for your faithfulness today to matter beyond your own lifetime?

8. Enoch "walked with God" (Gen. 5:24). What helps you cultivate an ongoing, genuine relationship with God rather than simply practicing outward Christianity?

Leader follow-up:

- What practices or habits help you draw near to God?
- What tends to distract you from walking closely with Him?
- Is there an area of your relationship with God that you would like to grow in?

4. APPLY — What will we do with this?

9. If faith—not achievement—is what secures God's commendation, how should that change the way we approach our work, family, ministry, and everyday responsibilities?

Leader follow-up:

- Where are you most tempted to find your identity in what you accomplish?
- How might faithfulness be more important than visible success?

Leader Note: The goal is not to suggest that work, family, or ministry accomplishments are unimportant. Rather, faith changes *why and how* we do them. We want to help people see that God's commendation rests on faith, not on the visibility or impressiveness of our achievements.

10. Is there a specific habit, decision, relationship, or circumstance where you need to trust God more fully?

Leader follow-up:

- What would that look like practically?
 - How can this group pray for and encourage you in that?
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5. PRAY — How should we pray about this?

Share briefly:

- Where do you need to trust God rather than rely on your own accomplishments?
- Where do you need to pursue God's approval rather than the approval of others?
- What would you like God to strengthen in your faith this week?

Pray for one another:

Ask God to give us genuine faith like Abel and Enoch—to trust His character, seek Him earnestly, walk closely with Him, and live for His commendation rather than our own recognition.

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