



Shelby Christian Church

CORE 52: LIVING IT-FAITH * MARK 1:16, GENESIS 6:9-22, PROVERBS 3:5-6, HEBREWS 11:1,
JAMES 2:17-18 * 7/20/2025

INTRODUCTION

When have you pledged your allegiance to someone or some organization? How did that practically affect your behavior?

How do you typically define the word faith? How have you personally experienced the “coming near” of God’s kingdom?

UNDERSTANDING

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MARK 1:15

What does Jesus mean when He says “The time has come”?

How would you describe the “kingdom of God” mentioned here?

What two commands does Jesus give in this verse?

What might it look like in everyday life to “believe the good news”?

This verse captures the core of Jesus’ early public ministry and summarizes His urgent message. It follows His baptism and temptation, marking the launch of His mission to proclaim the kingdom of God. It invites believers to live with awareness that God’s kingdom is near—both now and in the future. It challenges us to continually examine our hearts, repent from anything that separates us from God, and place our trust fully in Jesus. This verse sets the tone for the entire Gospel: an urgent, hopeful call to respond to God’s reign.

HAVE A VOLNTEER READ GENESIS 6:9-22

How is Noah described in these verses? What stands out about his character?

What reason does God give for sending the flood?

What specific instructions does God give Noah about the ark?

How does Noah respond to God’s command? What does Noah’s obedience to build the ark say about his faith?

How do you respond when God gives you a difficult or unusual task, like Noah building the ark?

What does it mean for you personally to “walk with God,” as Noah did?

This passage introduces Noah, a man who stands out as righteous and blameless in a world filled with widespread corruption and violence. God reveals His plan to judge the earth with a devastating flood because of humanity's sinfulness, but He also chooses to preserve Noah and his family as a means of salvation.

God gives Noah detailed instructions to build an ark—a large vessel designed to protect Noah, his family, and representatives of all animal species from the coming judgment. Despite the unprecedented nature of this task and the absence of visible signs of the flood, Noah obeys God completely, demonstrating remarkable faith and trust.

This section highlights themes of judgment, mercy, faith, and obedience, setting the stage for the story of the flood and God's covenant with Noah.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ PROVERBS 3:5-6

Why is trusting God “with all your heart” different from partial trust?

How can leaning on our own understanding lead us astray?

What does it look like practically to submit to God in “all your ways”?

How might God “make your paths straight”?

Proverbs 3:5-6 encourages believers to entrust every part of their lives to God, recognizing His superior wisdom and care. When we stop relying solely on our own understanding and yield to God's leading, we position ourselves to receive His guidance and experience a smoother journey through life's challenges.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ HEBREWS 11:1

How does this definition of faith compare to common ideas about faith?

Why is it important that faith involves things “we do not see”?

How can faith impact a believer's daily life according to this verse?

Hebrews 11:1 calls believers to a faith that is both active and certain, confident in God's promises even when circumstances or senses suggest otherwise. This faith encourages perseverance and hope, empowering us to live in trust of God's unseen but real kingdom.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JAMES 2:17-18

Why does James say faith without works is “dead”?

How do deeds demonstrate or prove faith according to this passage?

What does this teach us about the relationship between belief and behavior?

In this passage, James teaches that faith and works are inseparable. He emphasizes that faith alone, without accompanying actions, is dead and ineffective. True faith naturally produces good deeds as its evidence.

James anticipates an objection from someone who claims to have faith but no works, and he challenges this by saying that faith is demonstrated and made visible through actions. In other words, you can show your faith by what you do.

This passage stresses that genuine Christian faith is not merely intellectual or emotional belief but is lived out in concrete deeds. It calls believers to reflect their faith through loving and obedient actions, proving that their faith is alive and authentic.

APPLICATION

Have you heard your friends and family define faith?

Do you sense a difference in the obedience that comes from guilt, fear, and joy (whether to God, parents, or teachers).

If you were explaining faith as "allegiance" to a friend, what kind of examples might you use to show what true fidelity really means?

Are there areas of your life where you want to shift your loyalty to Jesus from "Is this all I have to do?" to "What else can I do?"

PRAYER

COMMENTARY

Mark 1:15

Jesus announces that the moment long-awaited in Jewish hope and prophecy has arrived. This phrase signals the fulfillment of God's promises and the start of a new era in salvation history. It reflects the urgency and significance of the message that follows.

The "kingdom of God" refers to God's reign and rule—His sovereign power breaking into human history. This kingdom is both already present in Jesus' ministry and not yet fully consummated. The nearness indicates that God's redemptive rule is now accessible and active, inviting response.

Repentance means more than feeling sorry; it is a complete turning away from sin and turning toward God. It involves a change of mind and heart that leads to transformation. This is the necessary first step in entering God's kingdom.

To believe (Greek: *pisteuō*) is to trust in Jesus and the message He brings. The "good news" (gospel) is the announcement of salvation, forgiveness, and God's kingdom. Faith in this message opens the door to new life and relationship with God.

Genesis 6:9-22

Verses 9-10: Noah stands out in a corrupt generation as righteous and blameless, meaning he lived in right relationship with God. To "walk with God" implies close fellowship and daily obedience, not just

occasional faith. His faithfulness contrasts sharply with the wickedness around him, highlighting the seriousness of the moral decline in the world.

Verses 11-13: The earth's corruption and violence show the depth of human sinfulness. God's declaration to destroy the earth reflects His justice—sin cannot be tolerated indefinitely. Yet, God also shows mercy by deciding to preserve Noah and his family, providing a way of salvation.

Verses 14-16: God gives detailed specifications for the ark—a massive boat designed to preserve life. The ark's dimensions and materials (gopher wood, waterproofing with pitch) show God's concern for Noah's survival. The ark symbolizes God's provision and protection amid judgment.

Verses 17-21: God warns Noah of the flood that will wipe out life on earth. Noah's obedience in building the ark and preparing for the flood is a profound act of faith in unseen circumstances. He is instructed to bring animals aboard to repopulate the earth, showing God's plan to restore creation.

Verse 22: "Noah did everything just as God commanded him." This summary statement emphasizes Noah's complete obedience without hesitation or compromise. Noah's faith is demonstrated by action—he trusted God's word enough to build the ark over many years, despite probable ridicule and doubt from others.

Proverbs 3:5-6

To "trust" means to rely fully and confidently on God. "With all your heart" indicates complete, wholehearted trust, not a half-hearted or cautious approach. This trust involves emotional commitment, not just intellectual assent.

Humans often rely on their own reasoning, experiences, and perspective. This phrase warns against overconfidence in human wisdom, which is limited and fallible. It calls for humility, recognizing that God's wisdom surpasses ours.

"Ways" means all aspects of life—decisions, actions, plans. Submission here means acknowledging God's lordship, seeking His guidance, and being willing to obey. It's a daily, ongoing posture, not a one-time decision.

"He will make your paths straight"- This promise means God will guide and direct your life. "Straight paths" imply safety, clarity, and progress toward God's purpose. It suggests God removes obstacles or confusion when we trust and submit to Him.

Hebrews 11:1

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for"- The Greek word translated as "confidence" (hypostasis) means a firm foundation or assurance. Faith is a strong, unwavering trust in the promises of God—things we eagerly hope for, like salvation, eternal life, and God's kingdom. It's not wishful thinking but a settled conviction that what God has promised will come to pass.

"And assurance about what we do not see"- Faith involves trusting realities that are invisible to the physical eye—such as God's presence, His promises, and eternal truths. This assurance is more than optimism; it is a confident belief that shapes how we live here and now. Faith bridges the gap between the present visible world and the future fulfillment of God's promises.