

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

Hebrews 11:1-16

Lesson 14

Hebrews 11 serves as a call to faith to all believers. It does not provide for us a definition of faith as much as it describes for us what faith does and how it works. True Biblical faith is not blind optimism or a manufactured "hope-so" feeling. Neither is it an intellectual assent to a doctrine. It is certainly not believing in spite of evidence! That would be superstition. True Biblical faith is confident obedience to God's Word in spite of circumstances and consequences. May that kind of faith be the faith that more and more describes your life as it does the faithful ones who have gone before us.

DAY ONE: Read Hebrews 11:1-16

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

a. Hebrews 11:1-16 has been divided into four sections. List below the subject(s) covered in each section.

Verses 1-3

Verses 4-7

Verses 8-12

Verses 13-16

How would you title each section? Record your titles on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

Used in prior homework lessons: *God* and *faith*

New to this lesson: *receive/received*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in Hebrews 11:1-16. Remember, as you mark the word *God* to mark any personal pronouns or other titles that refer to Him.

3. Note the term of conclusion, *therefore*, in verses 12 and 16. Mark each reference. Choose one and record the conclusion stated and what it is based upon.

4. The contrasting word *but* is used 3 times in Hebrews 11:1-16. Mark each time this term is used. Choose one of the contrasts and briefly reflect on its significance.

5. Make a list of what the text reveals about *faith*.

DAY TWO: Read Hebrews 11:1-3

1. *Faith* and the importance of it was introduced in Hebrews 10:38,39. Now the author devotes an entire chapter to this essential subject. Chapter eleven serves as a call to *faith* for all believers. The nature of *faith* is revealed and its effects are viewed through the heroes and heroines in the "Hall of Faith" in this chapter. What two phrases does the author use in Hebrews 11:1 to describe *faith*?
 - a. List some synonyms for the word *faith*.

 - b. List some antonyms for the word *faith*.

2. The word *substance* is an important word in this text. It can be understood to mean that which is placed under, as a foundation, which speaks of the ground on which one builds hope. It also means reality or existence as opposed to that which is unreal or imaginary. Note Hebrews 11:1 NLT *What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see.* What does 2 Corinthians 5:7 say about this?
 - a. Why is it important for us to know this?

 - b. *Faith* rests on the character of God and what He has said in His Word and not on ourselves or on visible things around us. Why is the object of *faith* the key issue?

3. Observe in Hebrews 11:2 the blessing the *elders* (men of old) received because of their *faith*. What is this blessing?
 - a. The phrase *a good testimony* is literally *were witnessed of*. God bore witness to them in the victory of their *faith* over all obstacles, and their characters and deeds as men of *faith* were recorded in Scripture. In what way does this:
 - 1.) arouse your interest to study more carefully the lives of these men and women of *faith* in this chapter?
 - 2.) cause you to be mindful of God witnessing what you do? (in a favorable light ☺)
4. *Faith* enables us to understand things we cannot understand through our natural understanding. What does Hebrews 11:3 tell us we are able to *by faith understand*?
 - a. How is belief that the *worlds were framed by the Word of God* an evidence of *faith*?
5. How does meditating on the awesome power of God and His Word affect your *faith*?

DAY THREE: Read Hebrews 11:4-7

1. Hebrews 11:4 introduces us to the first of the heroes of *faith*. True *faith* requires action. In Hebrews 11 we will view men and women who demonstrated their *faith* through action. Who is the first on the list of God's honor roll and what is said about him?
 - a. God commended Abel as a righteous man and spoke well of his sacrifice because it was offered by *faith*. Abel's example of sacrifice and worship *still speaks*. How does his example speak to you today?

2. Enoch beautifully illustrates the walk of *faith*. What does Hebrews 11:5 record about him? See also Genesis 5:22-24.
 - a. Notice particularly the *testimony* of God concerning Enoch as you print the last three words of this verse.
 - 1.) What does it mean to you to *please God*?

3. Hebrews 11:6 relates *faith* to pleasing God. Thoughtfully write this verse phrase by phrase.
 - a. Highlight or underline the phrases in this verse that declare what those who *come to God must believe*.
 - 1.) God rewards those *who diligently seek Him*. How do you do this?

4. God spoke to Noah (*being divinely warned of things not yet seen*) and Noah acted in *faith*. Record Noah's attitude and actions according to Hebrews 11:7.
 - a. In what way did Noah demonstrate *faith*?
 - b. What were the rewards of his *faith*?
 - c. How does Noah's work of *faith* and obedience minister to you?

DAY FOUR: Read Hebrews 11:8-12

1. This section witnesses to the *faith* of Abraham and Sarah. The first three verses describe Abraham's *faith*. Choose words and phrases that reveal Abraham's *faith* from the following verses:
 - a. Hebrews 11:8
 - b. Hebrews 11:9
 - c. Hebrews 11:10
 - 1.) How does Abraham's obedience of *faith* impress you?

2. Hebrews 11:11,12 address Sarah's *faith*. What did Sarah *receive through faith*?
 - a. *Because she judged Him faithful who had promised.* Sarah trusted God's Word of promise and received a miracle. How does her *faith* inspire you today?
 - b. How does God's *faithfulness* inspire you today?
3. God was faithful to Abraham and Sarah even though they waited a very long time for the fulfillment of His promise. What part does waiting play in developing or maturing our *faith*?
4. Even the strongest of believers are tempted to *lose heart* in their faith. What antidotes to *losing heart* can you draw from the following Psalms?
 - a. Psalm 27:13
 - b. Psalm 42:5,6

DAY FIVE: Read Hebrews 11:13-16

1. Hebrews 11:13 makes a summary statement addressing all those mentioned in the previous verses of this chapter. What does this verse tell us about *these all*?
 - a. *These all died* without receiving the promised Savior and the eternal Kingdom, but their *faith* in the promises of God saved them. Notice the verbs in this verse: *having seen, were assured, embraced them, and confessed.* In what way do these reflect their *faith*?
 - b. According to 2 Peter 3:13,14 what are we looking for and how should it influence our life?
 - 1.) As believers we need to live daily in the awareness that we are *strangers and pilgrims on the earth* and that this world is not our home. How should this awareness affect your priorities and actions?
2. We looked at antidotes to *losing heart* in Day Four. Having the attitude of a *pilgrim* is another antidote to *losing heart*. What does 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 add to this?

DAY SIX: Review Hebrews 11:1-16

1. What lessons have you learned about *faith* from Hebrews 11:1-16?
2. What prompts believers to continue to exercise *faith* even when God doesn't seem to be "coming through" for them?
3. Contrast a life of *faith* with a life lived according to what it sees and experiences.
4. Why do you think God sometimes leaves us in the dark about His will?
5. When do you find it most difficult to trust God?
6. What has helped you to choose *faith*?
7. What is one way you can remind yourself to live as a *pilgrim* and *stranger*?

*But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You;
Let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them;
Let those also who love Your name be joyful in You.*

- Psalm 5:11