

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

Hebrews 11:17-40

Lesson 15

There is probably no chapter in the Bible more essential to our understanding of the nature and blessings of *faith* than Hebrews 11. Through the examples of the people in this chapter we are influenced, challenged, instructed, and encouraged concerning our *faith*. As you study the examples recorded in these last verses of Hebrews 11, may you see the *reward* of *faith* and discover in a deeper way the significance of your *faith* to the Lord.

DAY ONE: Read Hebrews 11:17-40

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 11:17-40 has been divided into three sections. List below the subject(s) covered in each section.

Verses 17-22

Verses 23-29

Verses 30-40

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

After titling each section, record a title for Chapter 11.

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*, *Jesus*, and *faith*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in Hebrews 11:17-40. Remember, as you mark the words *God* and *Jesus*, mark any personal pronouns or other titles that refer to Them.

3. There is only one reference to Jesus in this lesson (verse 26). Add it to your Jesus Chart if you would like.

4. The phrase *by faith* is used eleven times in this lesson. Make a list of just some of the things these saints did *by faith*.

DAY TWO: Read Hebrews 11:17-22

1. We viewed Abraham's *faith* earlier in chapter 11 as we learned of his obedience in leaving his homeland and *went out, not knowing where he was going*. Hebrews 11:17-19 again portrays Abraham. What account of his *faith* is revealed here? (Challenge: record any other pertinent information from Genesis 22:1-18.)

Challenge: Briefly record parallels between Abraham's offering of Isaac and God's sacrifice of His Son.

2. Ponder for a moment the enormity of this test of *faith*. Now, reflect on the phrase *concluding that God was able to raise him up* (Hebrews 11:19). What does this reveal about Abraham's *faith*?
3. Continue your study of God's Hall of *Faith* by looking at the patriarchs mentioned in Hebrews 11:20-22. What did the following men do *by faith*?
 - a. Isaac (verse 20)
 - b. Jacob (verse 21)
 - c. Joseph (verse 22)

4. The actions of these men demonstrated they were looking through eyes of *faith* toward the future for the fulfillment of God's promised blessings. What example do you see in this for your life?

5. Think about Isaac blessing his sons and Jacob his grandsons. Although our culture is different than theirs in the custom of blessing children, today parents and grandparents should bless their children. Share at least one way this can be done.

DAY THREE: Read Hebrews 11:23-29

1. What did Moses' parents do that exemplified their *faith*? verse 23
 - a. If you are a parent, share something you are trusting God for in relationship to your child/children.

2. God spared Moses' life through the *faith* of his parents. Moses' life also reflects great *faith* as viewed in Hebrews 11:24-28. The first example of his *faith* is recorded in Hebrews 11:24-26. *When he became of age* (had grown up) what did Moses do *by faith*? verse 24
 - a. What did he choose according to Hebrews 11:25,26?
 - 1.) Look at these choices again and the values they reflect. What does this indicate about Moses and his *faith*?

 - b. *...for he was looking ahead to the great reward that God would give him* (Hebrews 11:26 NLT). Moses looked ahead with *faith* to the promised *Christ* (Messiah), giving up temporal benefits and pleasures exchanging them for future, eternal rewards. In what way does *faith* help us look beyond the world's values and give us an eternal viewpoint? Use Matthew 6:19-21 and 1 John 2:15-17 to help you with your answer.

3. Record from the following verses two more illustrations from Moses' life that proved his *faith*:
 - a. Hebrews 11:27

 - b. Hebrews 11:28

4. Hebrews 11:29 describes the glorious miracle of *faith* that occurred as Moses and the children of Israel were hemmed in by the Red Sea and Pharaoh's army. What does this verse say happened as a result of their *faith*?
 - a. View this from Exodus 14:13-16,21-28. What do you see that increases your *faith*?
 - 1.) They were to *stand still and see the salvation of the LORD*, and then they were to *go forward*. There are times when we need to *stand still* and watch God work and then He tells us to *go forward in faith*. Why is *faith* necessary in both cases?

DAY FOUR: Read Hebrews 11:30-34

1. Hebrews 11:30 calls our attention to the conquest of Jericho by Joshua and the Israelites as they marched around this great city that was considered invincible. It is reported that Jericho's walls were up to 25 feet high and 20 feet thick. In one short sentence this verse describes what happened to this city. Write it here.
 - a. For further details of this event, read Joshua 6:1-17,20. Consider the *faith* it required for these military men to follow the instructions that would not have made sense to them. They passed this test of *faith* by obeying the Lord and the outcome was a great miracle. How does their example of *faith* speak to you?
2. Who was the heroine of *faith* in Jericho and what is said about her in Hebrews 11:31?
 - a. Read Joshua 2:9-11 to see what Rahab believed about the Lord. Record her statement of *faith* from Joshua 2:11b.
 - b. Rahab seems like a very unlikely person to be in God's Hall of *Faith* since she was a prostitute (before her conversion) and a Gentile. She is included in this honored list because of her *faith* in God and her act of *faith when she had received* (welcomed) *the spies in peace*. How does her *faith* speak to you?
3. In Hebrews 11:32-34 the author continues with more illustrations of *faith*: *And what other examples shall I give? There is simply not time to continue by telling the stories of...* (Hebrews 11:32 Phillips). List the names of these men of *faith*.
 - a. Write phrases from Hebrews 11:33,34 that proclaim their exploits of *faith*.

- b. The Old Testament accounts reveal that these men were far from perfect. In fact, these records indicated serious failures for several of them. It is amazing that here in this chapter no failures are recorded. We read only of their successes because of their *faith*. In what way does this minister to you?

DAY FIVE: Read Hebrews 11:35-40

1. Hebrews 11:35a records another extraordinary result of *faith*. What was it?
2. Observe the *faith of others* in Hebrews 11:35b-37. What do these verses record happened to them?
 - a. Hebrews 11:35b
 - b. Hebrews 11:36
 - c. Hebrews 11:37
 - d. Hebrews 11:38b
3. Hebrews 11:38a NASB says that *the world was not worthy of them*. Record what Hebrews 11:39 declares about them.
 - a. There is no question about their *faith*. Hebrews 11:35b-38 should cause us to realize that *faith* in God does not guarantee a positive or miraculous outcome. Why is this important for us to understand?
 - b. Many endured hardship, adversity, deprivation, shame, torture, and even death, yet they demonstrated *faith*. They chose to press on, not looking back and their *faith* did not fail. In what way should they be encouragers of our *faith* in our times of difficulty?
4. *And these men of faith, though they trusted God and won his approval, none of them received all that God had promised them; for God wanted them to wait and share the even better rewards that were prepared for us* (Hebrews 11:39,40 TLB). If they were enabled to persevere and to act in *faith* having only the blessing of the promise of the coming Messiah, how much more should we, who have received Christ, be able to persevere?

DAY SIX: Review Hebrews 11:17-40

1. Recall one thing you learned about *faith* from the following passages;
 - a. Hebrews 11:17-22
 - b. Hebrews 11:23-29
 - c. Hebrews 11:30-34
 - d. Hebrews 11:35-40
2. Consider the actions that the *faith* of these saints provoked. How does this inspire you?
3. Choose one hero or heroine of *faith* from these verses and share something about them that has impressed you.
4. What did you learn from the examples recorded in this week's lesson about:
 - a. the power of *faith*
 - b. the results of *faith*
5. Write an acrostic or acronym for the word:
F
A
I
T
H

*That the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes,
though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory
at the revelation of Jesus Christ,*

- 1 Peter 1:7