

LET US FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS

Faith Makes All the Difference

Hebrews 11:17–40

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2,3

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16

Day 1: Overview—Read Hebrews 10:35–39; 11; and 12:1.

1. In light of Hebrews 10:35–39, explain the purpose of chapter 11.

2. In 10:39, what two groups does the author divide people who have (as described in 10:26) “received the knowledge of the truth”? In which group is every example mentioned in chapter 11?

3. What key word in 10:36, 11:27, and 12:1 describes the aspect of faith that the writer most wants to encourage in his hearers?

Day 2: Read Hebrews 11:17–19 and Genesis 22:1–18.

4. According to Gen. 22:1 and Heb. 11:17 what is God doing to Abraham by asking him to sacrifice his son, Isaac?

5. In the realm of faith, what is the relationship between testing and perseverance? (See James 1:2–4.)

6. How does Abraham demonstrate his faith? (See also Rom. 4:20–22.)

7. Recall a time when your faith was tested. Looking back, share how God used that test to increase your perseverance.

Day 3: Read Hebrews 11:20–23.

8. What phrase(s) in verse 13 are illustrated by the examples of:
 - A. Isaac? (Gen. 26:2–5; 27:27–40)

B. Jacob (also called Israel)? (Gen. 47:29–31; 48:8–20)

C. Joseph? (Gen. 50:24, 25)

9. Why do you think Moses' parents are given as examples of faith? (see Acts 7:6, 7, 17–20)

Day 4: Read Hebrews 11:24–29.

10. According to these verses, enumerate the ways that Moses demonstrated faith in God.

11. According to verse 27, what was the primary reason that Moses persevered? (Choose one and explain your choice.)

- a) He firmly believed that Israel was being treated unfairly.
- b) He knew that he was special and that he had a great work to do for God.
- c) He had a vision of God.

12. How does this same thing enable you to persevere?

Day 5: Read Hebrews 11:30–40.

13. Read verse 31 with Joshua 2:1–21; 6:22, 23, and Matthew 1:1, 5. How is Rahab an example of one who believed and was saved?

14. In verses 32–38, there's a short list of Old Testament figures—many of them heroes. What quality do they have in common? (vs. 33)

15. What does the writer mean in verse 38 that “the world was not worthy of them”?

16. Read verses 39 and 40. Here is another translation: “And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they should not be made perfect.” Paraphrase these verses.