

## Run : Lesson 9 Homework

### Day 1 : Scripture Reading

Hebrews 11 is often called the hall of fame of faith. In this amazing recounting of the stories of those that have gone before us, we get to have an insider's look into how they walked. Start this week by asking the Lord to teach you and show you all that He has for you in this text.

Using our color coding system, read Hebrews 11 – 12:15 using purple to highlight anything that shows you what faith walked out has looked like.

**Purple:** What does faith walked out look like?

**Green:** What does Jesus promise?

**Orange:** What does Jesus ask of us?

**Pink:** What is worthy of prayer and pursuit in your own life?

Close today by just sitting in the sobering stories of faith recounted in these chapters. Ask God for faith like theirs; faith that is walked out for the benefit of a broken and watching world.

### Day 2 : Scripture Study : Hebrew Word Study

As followers of Jesus, we talk a lot about faith. But what actually is faith? What is a proper Biblical understanding of faith? Faith can definitely refer to a set of propositions that define our religious beliefs. For instance, sometimes we refer to Christianity being our "faith". Other times we say to each other, "have faith!" In both of these common uses, faith is a noun. Faith is an intangible thing that we are to mentally adopt.

In the Hebrew understanding, faith is not typically used grammatically as a noun. In fact, it implies much more than just believing a statement about God. Instead, it is used as a verb. Most often, it is used as the action of being faithful. It is how you act when you have faith. In addition, in the Old testament, it is an action that requires a relationship. To be faithful is to walk out or to live according to the trust that one has in the promises or personhood of God. To be faithful is how someone walks that is full of faith, someone who lives a life of full reliance on Him.

Look up the following verses and note who is described as faithful:

- Deuteronomy 7:9 \_\_\_\_\_
- Psalm 33:4 \_\_\_\_\_
- Psalm 111:17 \_\_\_\_\_

- Isaiah 49:7 \_\_\_\_\_

Of course, we who follow Jesus are to be faithful as we walk after Him. But many times, the Bible tells us that God is full of faith. He is true to the promises He has made and true to His character. He is so worthy of our trust. If He said it, He is bound to it and He will be faithful to it. He cannot help but execute His promises to us because He is faithful to His word and who He is.

The Hebrew word for faith is emunah. The word “amen” shares the same root as emunah. When we end a prayer with amen or say amen after something someone else says, we are using it as a statement of agreement. However, in its most robust meaning, amen carries with it the concept of faithfulness. To say amen after a prayer is an appeal or proclamation to God saying, “God, be faithful!”

<p>אמונה (emunah) : faithfulness אמן (amen)</p>
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Close today by reflecting on this verse with the Hebraic understanding of faithfulness and Jesus’ invitation to walk after Him. Can you say what the Psalmist says in this verse?

*“I have chosen the path of faithfulness; I have set my heart on your laws.” Psalm 119:30*

### **Day 3 : Journaling + Prayer**

What a gift it is for each and every one of us to be invited into an intimate relationship with the living God. And then to think that this relationship goes both ways is astounding. Not only does He want us to be faithful to Him, but He promises to be faithful to us! Below are some incredibly beautiful verses that express God’s faithfulness and character. Pick one or two and write them out in your journal. Remember, writing things out is a great way to metabolize and internalize things that you want to become a part of your habitual walk after Jesus.

Psalm 40:9-11

Psalm 89:20-37

Isaiah 26:2-4

Psalm 98:1-3

Close your journaling time by praying one of these verses back to God! As you close your prayer and say, “amen,” remember that when you say that, you are proclaiming “God is faithful!”

## Day 4 : Remember

It was a part of God's plan to bring you to this curriculum, to this space and time with this particular group of people in order to train you and show you His path. He has been so faithful! You have been faithful by showing up, interacting with your group, and working on the spiritual disciplines in between meetings. As you have been faithful and He has been true, no doubt your relationship with Him has grown over these nine lessons.

We talked about the Hebrew word for remember (zakar) all the way back in lesson three. In the Hebrew mindset, to remember is not to simply recall but it is to ***recall something from the past to bring it into the present to have it change the future.***

Take some time to physically remember. Thumb back through your notebook. Review some of your responses. Read some of your journal entries. Consider all of your underlining and interactions with the portions of Scripture we studied. What stands out to you? What are the one or two things that have really grabbed your heart? What do you want to bring to the forefront from this entire study to ensure that it changes you from here on out?

In the space below, write one thing that God showed you that you want to remember:

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One of the most effective ways to ensure change is to share our commitments with someone else that we trust. Commit to sharing what you wrote above with one person you trust in the next few days.

## Day 5 : Prayer

Read through Hebrews 11 again. The book of Romans tells us that we are grafted into the heritage of these Old Testament characters in this passage who showed such incredible faith. They are our forefathers. The baton is now in our hands and they are in the stands rooting for us. As you trust Jesus and follow Him, you are walking the well-worn path of those that have gone before you. Abraham, Sarah, Rebecca, David, Ruth...these are your spiritual grandparents! For some of us, we also have people that we love that have invested in us and believed in us that are also in our stands cheering us on. You are woven into an incredible, epic story of redemption and it is your time to run!

As this study comes to an end, take the opportunity to pray through the following prompts:

- Think through all of the people who are in your stands. Thank God for those that have gone before you. Thank Him for His faithfulness to them and their faithfulness to Him.
- Ask God to help you keep your eyes focused on Him as you run the race He has marked out for you! Ask Him to give you eyes to see where He has uniquely placed you and how He has uniquely gifted you to be in that place.
- Ask God to give you courage, stamina, and eternal perspective as you storm the gates to partner with Him to rescue and restore.
- Conclude by praying for your community. Pray on behalf of your small group members. Stand in the gap by bringing their requests before the Lord.

## Hebrews 11 – 12:3

**11** Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. <sup>2</sup> This is what the ancients were commended for.

<sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

<sup>4</sup> By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.

<sup>5</sup> By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: "He could not be found, because God had taken him away." For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. <sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

<sup>7</sup> By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.

<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup> And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she <sup>[b]</sup>considered him faithful who had made the promise. <sup>12</sup> And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

<sup>13</sup> All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. <sup>14</sup> People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

<sup>17</sup> By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, <sup>18</sup> even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." <sup>19</sup> Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.

<sup>20</sup> By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future.

<sup>21</sup> By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff.

<sup>22</sup> By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions concerning the burial of his bones.

<sup>23</sup> By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

<sup>24</sup> By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. <sup>25</sup> He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. <sup>26</sup> He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. <sup>27</sup> By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. <sup>28</sup> By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

<sup>29</sup> By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.

<sup>30</sup> By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days.

<sup>31</sup> By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

<sup>32</sup> And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, <sup>33</sup> who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. <sup>35</sup> Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. <sup>36</sup> Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup> They were put to death by stoning;<sup>[a]</sup> they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— <sup>38</sup> the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

<sup>39</sup> These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, <sup>40</sup> since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

**12** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.