

ORCHARD ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# **BIBLE FOR ALL (BFA) MATERIAL FOR DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS**

## **Dig Deeper Study Tools**

- Author's Purpose
- Context
- Structure
- Linking Words
- Parallels
- Narrator's Comment
- Vocabulary
- Translations
- Tone and Feel
- Repetition
- Quotation/Allusion
- Genre
- Copycat
- Bible Timeline
- "Who am I"
- "So What"

## **Hebrews—Jesus Is Superior**

**STUDY 1** (For Sermon on 14 Sep 2025)

**Hebrews 11:1-7** **Hold Fast, Live by Faith**

**STUDY 2** (For Sermon on 28 Sep 2025)

**Hebrews 11:20-40** **Hold Fast, Conquer by Faith**

## Background

- Hebrews' author is unknown, likely a second-generation leader after the apostles (2:3)
- Recipients were not mentioned. They were likely Jewish, persecuted and discriminated against for their faith (10:32–34)
- Returning to Judaism, a legal religion in Rome, would spare them from persecution.
- Hence its warnings **not to fall away** (2:1–4; 3:12–4:13; 5:11–6:12; 10:26–39; 12:25–29)
- Instead, it's a call to **hold fast** to their faith in Jesus (3:6, 14; 4:14; 6:18; 10:23).
- It's likely a sermon in written form, described as a “word of exhortation” in 13:22. “Exhort” appears four times (3:13; 10:25; 13:19, 22) and “exhortation” three times (6:18; 12:5; 13:22)
- It was possibly written before the temple's destruction in AD 70. 12:4 could suggest a date before Nero martyred the Christians after Rome's great fire.
- It is laden with OT thoughts: “Thirty-five quotations from a Greek translation of the Old Testament and thirty-four allusions work to support the development of Hebrews' argument. In addition, the writer offers nineteen summaries of Old Testament material, and thirteen times he mentions an Old Testament name or topic, often without reference to a specific context.”<sup>1</sup>
- To help the readers step back and see God's sovereign hand amid their sufferings.

## Message

- Hebrews is also a “word of exhortation” because God is a speaking God.
- His voice is “living and active” (4:12).
- Today if we hear His voice, we must pay heed (3:15).
- As long as it is called ‘today’, we must “exhort one another” (3:13)
- To listen to God's voice in His Son is to read OT in light of its fulfilment in Jesus Christ (1:1–2).
- Otherwise, to revert to OT sacrifices and rituals would deny Christ.
- Given the temptation to return to Judaism, the writer reminds his persecuted readers of the faith of OT saints, their leaders, and the pattern in Jesus' life—suffering comes before glory.
- Its already-not-yet end-time perspective implies the reward promised, the heavenly city, still awaits the believers.
- The theological truths in Hebrews thus serve as the foundation to exhort believers not to fall away.
- The greatness of Christ and His work makes falling away foolish.
- ***Its call is to hold fast to Christ, the superior mediator of a better covenant.***

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<sup>1</sup> Guthrie, George H.. Hebrews (The NIV Application Commentary Book 15. Zondervan. Kindle Edition.)

## **Broad Outline Aligned to the Sermon Series:**

### **Hold Fast to Jesus, the Superior Mediator of a Better Covenant with:**

#### **A Better Revelation**

- 6 Apr        Hold Fast, Jesus Is God's Final Word (1:1–4)
- 27 Apr       Hold Fast, Jesus Is Superior to Angels (1:5–14)
- 4 May        Hold Fast, Jesus Is the Incarnate Son (2:1–18)
- 11 May       Hold Fast, Jesus Is the Builder of God's House (3:1–6)

#### **A Better Rest**

- 25 May       Hold Fast, Believe and Enter His rest (3:7–19)
- 1 Jun        Don't Doubt, Enter His Rest (4:1–13)

#### **A Better Representative**

- 8 Jun        Hold Fast, Jesus Is the Perfect High Priest (4:14–5:10)
- 15 Jun       Hold Fast, Mature in Jesus (5:11–6:3)
- 22 Jun       Hold Fast, Don't Fall Away (6:4–12)
- 29 Jun       Hold Fast, God is Unchangeable (6:13–20)
- 6 Jul        Hold Fast, Jesus Is the Eternal High Priest (7:1–28)
- 20 Jul       Hold Fast, Jesus Is the Inaugurator of the New Covenant (8:1–13)
- 27 Jul       Hold Fast, Jesus Is the Anticipation of the Old Covenant (9:1–14)
- 3 Aug        Hold Fast, Jesus Is the Mediator of the New Covenant (9:15–28)
- 10 Aug       Hold Fast, Jesus Is the Perfect Sacrifice (10:1–18)
- 24 Aug       Hold Fast, Jesus Is Faithful (10:19–25)
- 31 Aug       Hold Fast, the Day Is Approaching (10:26–34)

#### **A Better Reward**

- 7 Sep        Hold Fast, God Will Reward (10:35–39)
- 14 Sep       Hold Fast, Live by Faith (11:1–7)
- 21 Sep       Hold Fast, Learn from Abraham (11:8–19)
- 28 Sep       Hold Fast, Conquer by Faith (11:20–40)
- 5 Oct        Hold Fast, Look to Jesus (12:1–4)
- 12 Oct       Hold Fast, Grow through God's Discipline (12:5–11)
- 19 Oct       Hold Fast, Pursue Peace and Holiness (12:12–17)
- 26 Oct       Hold Fast, Come in Awe (12:18–29)

#### **A Better Rededication**

- 2 Nov        Hold Fast, Continue in Love (13:1–8)
- 9 Nov        Hold Fast, Offer Up Your Lives (13:9–16)
- 23 Nov       Hold Fast, Uphold the Gospel Work (13:17–25)

## **How to Read the Book of Hebrews in its Old Testament Context**

### **A. Look for Promises Fulfilled in Jesus.**

1. Jesus as the true Son of David—He is the Messiah, the kingdom OT promised is realised in Him. (1:2 // Ps 2:8, 1:5 // Ps 2:7, 2 Sam 7:14.)
2. Ps 110: 1, “Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies Your footstool.” fulfilled in Jesus Christ (See 1:2, 13; 8:1; 10:12–13; 12:2).
3. Jesus as the Great High Priest “sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens” (8:1; See Ps 110:4, “. . . ‘Forever, You are a priest like Melchizedek.’”)
4. Jesus as the Greater Moses and Joshua
  - a. Covenant Fulfilment of Jer 31:31-34 in 8:8-12, 10:15-18; Jesus as the Greater Moses
  - b. Land-Rest Fulfilment of Gen 12:1-3 in 3:12-4:13, Jesus as the Greater Joshua

### **B. Look for OT Events, Institutions, and Persons (Typology) Anticipating Jesus and Heavenly/Eternal Realities.**

1. The fulfilment is always greater than the type
2. In OT, God spoke through Israel His Son (Ex 4:22; Jer 31:9). Now, God has spoken finally and definitively in His Greater Son (1:1-2)
3. Jesus is pre-eminently the better king, priest, and prophet, bringing a better sacrifice, covenant, rest, and promise.
4. Warnings of earthly penalties for disobeying OT Laws anticipate eternal judgment for rejecting eternal salvation in Jesus (2:2-3)
5. Earthly priests and the tabernacle are copies of the heavenly ones (8:5, 9:11).
6. The blood of bulls and goats anticipates Christ’s sacrifice through the eternal Spirit (9:12-14, 23-24).
7. Believers are earthly exiles, looking to a heavenly home (11:13-16)

### **C. Look for End-Time Perspective—Already but Not Yet**

1. “We do not yet see everything subjected to” Jesus (2:8)
2. The present heavens will perish and be rolled up like a cloak (1:11–12).
3. The created things, the present heavens and earth, will be shaken and removed, and only God’s kingdom will remain (12:26–28).
4. Jesus will appear a second time for those awaiting salvation (9:8)
5. Believers are perfected in holiness for all time by Christ’s one offering (10:14)
  - a. Yet, for now, they must persevere in faith amid suffering (10:39-11:40).
  - b. They must pursue holiness without which no one will see the Lord (12:4)
  - c. They’re members of the heavenly assembly (12:22-33)
  - d. They seek the city to come (13:14).

**14 September 2025**

**Study 1: Hold Fast, Live by Faith**

**Hebrews 11:1-7**

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**PREPARE (INDIVIDUAL): READ, MARK, AND REFLECT**

Read the text throughout the week(s) before your group time.

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." <sup>p</sup> 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.

(NIV 2011)

*Notes and Questions*

## **PREPARE TO SHARE (INDIVIDUAL): LOOK BACK**

What has God been teaching you in the last few weeks?

Who has God laid on your heart to pray for?

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## **GROUP: SHARE AND PRAY**

Take note of one another's prayer concerns.

Come together to pray for each other, the church, and the world (see this month's prayer bulletin).

## **GROUP: WORSHIP TOGETHER**

Prepare your hearts to meet God and one another in His Word through worshipping together.

## GROUP: STUDY 1

Recap: Hebrews 1 begins with God's son as His final word. The Son is the creator and sustainer of the universe, the eternal kingly priest who, after making purification for sin, sat down at God's right hand.

Hebrews 6:19-20 continues the theme of Jesus as the priestly king in the order of Melchizedek, concluding in Hebrews 10:1-18 with Jesus as the perfect sacrifice and priestly king who inaugurated the new covenant, transforming God's people through the law inscribed on their hearts.

Hebrews 10:19-34 follows up with a call to faith and action, a triple "Let us" in verses 21-23—let us draw near, let us hold fast, and let us consider how to stir up one another in love and good deeds. Considering the judgment to come for those who had rejected or abandoned Christ, the first readers were reminded of their earlier faith and courage, which helped them endure suffering and persecution.

### Immediate Context of Hebrews

#### A Summary of Hebrews 10:35-39—Hold Fast, God Will Reward

The author hence encouraged the believers to hold fast to their faith during their present trials because God will reward those who persevere in doing His will. In contrast, those who shrink back will be lost. Only genuine believers will hold fast to their faith by trusting in God's promises and timing.

### Read Hebrews 11:1-7

#### Old Testament Scriptural citations and allusions in Hebrews 11:1-7

| <b>vv. 1-7</b> | <b>Old Testament Text cited or alluded to</b>  |
|----------------|--|
| v.3            | <b>Gen 1:1</b> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.   |
| v.4            | <b>Gen 4:4,8,10</b> And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, . . . While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him. . . .The LORD said, "What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground. |
| v.5            | <b>Gen 5:23</b> Altogether, Enoch lived a total of 365 years. 24 Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.   |
| v.7            | <b>Gen 6:9, 13-14, 22</b> This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God.<br>So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, . . . So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; . . .<br>Noah did everything just as God commanded him          |

## OBSERVATION



What do you notice as you read this passage?  
(The answers for this *observation* segment are usually straightforward, drawn directly from what you can see in the text given.)

1. According to v.1, what is faith?
2. What makes faith so important? See vv. 1, 6.
3. How was Abel's offering better than Cain's? See v.4. Consider Heb. 10:6-7 as well.
4. What was so unique about Enoch? (See v.5. Read also Gen 5:21-24)

## Comments

Notice that the examples of faith are all from the Old Testament. They were God's Old Covenant people. Those cited today predates even the Mosaic Covenant with Israel.

We were told the Old Covenant is now obsolete. What isn't obsolete is their faith.

This is because their faith was grounded in God's word. And God's word is eternal.

The same word of God continues from the Old into the New Covenant, and is now fulfilled in Jesus, God's final word. This is the word about the one story, one faith, and one Lord.

Faith that responds to God's word is ultimately about



5. What stood out about Noah's faith during his time? (see v.7)

trusting in a person, the Lord Jesus, our Saviour and Kingly Priest, whom God has sent.

## INTERPRETATION



What is the meaning and significance of your observations?

(This segment requires you to reflect on what you have observed in the earlier segment)

6. Why do you think v.3 tells us how the universe was made? How is this truth relevant to our faith?

So, this chapter on faith doesn't stand on its own. It's a call to respond to Jesus, our superior Priestly King who died for us, once for all, and sits now at God's right hand, who will return to save us forever.

7. What do you think the author is teaching us by saying that though Abel is dead, he still speaks? How does his story point us to Christ?

Faith is about believing in this Gospel, this good news, to live in ways reflecting its grace and truth. Such faith is the hallmark of those who belong to Jesus, who are waiting for His return (Heb 9:28, Ps 40:1).

Hebrews 11 shows us what it means to be such a people, waiting for the Saviour, setting our hopes on the eternal city.

8. How do you think Enoch's story points to the Gospel?

9. How did Noah illustrate to us what true faith is?



#### BIG IDEA

What is the main message of the passage?  
(Sum up the main idea and supporting ideas)



#### APPLICATION

Why did the Holy Spirit give us this text?  
(Considering the big idea and the Holy Spirit's intent helps us make applications faithful to the text.)

10. What promises from God's word are dearest to your heart and why?

11. How do the examples of faith encourage and point you to God in your struggles?

12. As Noah's faith kept him holy in a perverse generation, how does your faith preserve you from the unscriptural values and practices of your environment?

### **GROUP: DISCIPLESHIP FOCUS**

- Share with the group a faith story that has encouraged you.
- Share an area where you need to trust God more and ask for prayer support from the group.

**28 September 2025**

**Study 2: Hold Fast, Conquer by Faith**

**Hebrews 11:20-40**

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**PREPARE (INDIVIDUAL): READ, MARK, AND REFLECT**

Read the text throughout the week(s) before your group time.

<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>i</sup>

<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;

*Notes and Questions*

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>v</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.

(NIV 2011)

## **PREPARE TO SHARE (INDIVIDUAL): LOOK BACK**

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What has God been teaching you in the last few weeks?

Who has God laid on your heart to pray for?

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## **GROUP: SHARE AND PRAY**

Take note of one another's prayer concerns.

Come together to pray for each other, the church, and the world (see this month's prayer bulletin).

## **GROUP: WORSHIP TOGETHER**

Prepare your hearts to meet God and one another in His Word through worshipping together.

## GROUP: STUDY 2

### Review the Context of Hebrews 11:

Hebrews 10 sums up the book's message so far by underscoring the superiority of Christ and His sacrifice, calling its readers to a persevering faith by drawing near God and one another to live for God, in view of the approaching Day of Christ's return.

This is because its first readers, who had started their faith journey well, had become unsure and hesitant due to their troubles and persecutions. They had allowed the light they had received from the Holy Spirit to become dimmed by their lack of faith and diligence in pursuing God and His truths. Hebrews 10 calls them back to faith in Christ.

Hebrews 11 then explains what such faith is and how it's the only pleasing response to God by the examples of the Old Covenant saints. While the New Covenant has rendered the Old and its Laws obsolete, there remains a continuity. *The Old and the New are one story of grace.* From the Old to the New, salvation has always been by grace and through faith. And *faith does God's will by heeding God's word because it believes in the God who saves us by His sovereign grace in Christ.*

Hence, Hebrews 11:1-7 shows God's people as Abel, Enoch, and Noah, who were before Abraham, who also came to God by faith alone. While Abraham is the father of faith, the call for faith predates Abraham, illustrating the truth in Heb. 11:3, that without faith, it's impossible to please God (and be saved).

### A Summary of Hebrews 11:8-19

#### Hold Fast, Learn from Abraham

11:8-19 is the longest segment of Hebrews 11, and rightly so because Abraham, through faith, became the spiritual father of Israel and the church.

This is because Abraham believed in God based on God's word to him. He left for Canaan, trusting that God would give him many descendants through a son from Sarah, though she was past her childbearing years. He later obeyed God by offering up his son Isaac as a sacrifice, believing God could raise Isaac from the dead.

Hebrews 11:12-16 explains that such is the faith of those who believe in God. Verse 12 is a reference to the Abrahamic blessings in Gen 12:1-3. Like Abraham, these people pleased God because their true hope was not earthly but was set on the heavenly city God has prepared for them. By sharing in the faith of Abraham, they become partakers of the Abrahamic blessings, blessed and saved by God in Christ.

### Read Hebrews 11:20-40

And consider its OT Context: Old Testament Scriptures cited/alluded to in this text

| vv.20-40 | Brief Explanation of the Old Testament Text cited or alluded to   |
|----------|---|
| v. 20    | <b>Gen 27:</b> Isaac blessed Jacob and foretold Jacob and Esau's future in relation to the Abrahamic blessings. |

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| v.21     | <p><b>Gen 49:</b> Jacob blessed and foretold the future of his sons, elevating Joseph's younger son over his older, showing God's sovereign choice over human expectations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These sons of Joseph were born in Egypt, a place of their enslavement, but were redeemed and given a significant place in Israel's story to enjoy and propagate the Abrahamic blessings.</li> </ul> <p><b>Gen 49:33</b> is recast here as Jacob's ultimate demonstration of faith, by his dying in worship of God.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This worship was his response to God's revelations given to him concerning the future of his sons, how the Abrahamic blessings would be fulfilled through their lines.</li> </ul> |
| v.22     | <p><b>Gen 50:24-25:</b> Joseph asked to be carried out of Egypt and buried in the promised land, showing his faith in God's covenant promise to Abraham, to give the promised land to Abraham and his descendants, making them a blessing to the nations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This was the Gospel in its seed form. Joseph's faith anticipated Christ's death and resurrection thousands of years later in Jerusalem. See Mt 27:51-53.</li> </ul>   |
| vv.23-28 | <p><b>Exod. 2 -15.</b> Moses and the Exodus story. This forms the second-longest narrative in Heb. 11, underscoring its importance. Moses, the Lawgiver of Israel, also lived by faith.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verse <b>26</b> suggests that from rejecting worldly comfort to saving Israel from the Angel of Death through the Passover Lamb and the sprinkled blood, Moses was sustained by a forward-looking faith, just as those who came before him in <b>verses 13-16</b>. It's credited to him as faith in Christ.</li> </ul>  |
| v.29     | <p><b>Exod. 15.</b> Led by Moses, Israel crossed the Red Sea and triumphed over Egypt by drowning Pharaoh's army.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This crossing symbolised freedom from enslavement, new life, and new birth as a nation of God's people liberated to worship and serve Him. Paul likens it to our baptism, which buries our sin and raises us into newness of life in Christ. See 1 Cor 10:1-2</li> </ul>  |
| v.30     | <p><b>Jos 6:</b> The fall of Jericho under Joshua's army showed how Israel conquered its enemies by acting in faith based on God's word alone.</p>   |
| v.31     | <p><b>Jos 6:17,25</b> Rahab was saved from Jericho's destruction by her faith in the God of Israel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rahab was a Gentile and an unclean woman. Yet she became part of Jesus' ancestry line. Her salvation shows that through willing faith, none is beyond the reach of God's saving grace.</li> </ul>   |
| v.32     | <p><b>Judg. to I &amp; II Sam.:</b> This verse introduces the upcoming list of saints from Judges to Kings to the Prophets—Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, King David, and Prophet Samuel.</p>  |
| vv.33-38 | <p>This segment expands on v.32 by covering the history of Israel in I &amp; II Kings until the Exile, where Jeremiah and Daniel prophesied about the New</p>  |



|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <p>Covenant (Jer 31:34,35; Heb 10:16-17) spanning from the coming of the Messiah to the end of the age (Dan 12:9,13).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prophet Jeremiah was thrown in prison (Jer 37:15-16), Daniel into the lion's den (Dan 6), and Daniel's three friends into the fiery furnace (Dan 3).</li> <li>• The widow of Zarephath in 1 Kg 17:17-24, and the Shunammite woman in 2 Kg 4:18-37 received back their dead sons through Elijah and Elisha respectively.</li> <li>• Verse 37 possibly alludes to Isaiah being sawn in two, recorded in a few extra-biblical accounts.</li> <li>• Prophets like Elijah (2 Kings 1:8) and John the Baptist (Mt 3:4) went about in animal skins.</li> <li>• Other prophets hid in caves from wicked king Ahab (1 Kgs 18:4, 13).</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

## OBSERVATION



What do you notice as you read this passage?  
(The answers for this *observation segment* are usually straightforward, drawn directly from what you can see in the text given.)

1. What are the common concerns and characteristics of the Patriarchs Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph at the end of their lives? (See v.20, 21, 22.)
2. What hard choices did Moses have to make in v.23-29? What gave him the strength and courage to do so? (see v.26)

## Comments

*Hebrews 11 is the famous chapter on the hall of faith. It begins by defining what faith is, that faith is the confidence in what we hope for and the assurance about what we do not see.*

*Realise that this is a follow through of Heb. 9:27-28, reinforced through the citation of Ps 40:6-8 in Heb. 10, as the new covenant Christlike characteristic of one who delights to do God's will. Such is one who waits on God (Ps. 40:1).*

*While death and judgement are the inevitable outcome of sin, there is salvation for those who belong to Jesus Christ, defined as*

3. From where in the Bible did the writer of Hebrews draw his faith examples in vv. 20-38?

| Verses | Coverage  | Bible Books                    |
|--------|---|--------------------------------|
| 20-22  |   |                                |
| 23-29  | Moses and Israel's Exodus story   |                                |
| 30-32  |   |                                |
| 33-38  | Cover God's people in the history of Israel in I & II Kings until the Exile, where Jeremiah and Daniel prophesied about the new covenant from the coming of the Messiah to the end of the age. (See the table for OT context) | I & II Kings, Jeremiah, Daniel |

*Note: Hebrews 11 shows that the entire story of God's people throughout salvation history calls us to faith in Jesus Christ.*

4. What common characteristics of faith can you find among the examples cited in Hebrews 11?

5. According to vv. 39-40, what is the reason the Old Testament saints have not yet received the fulfilment of God's promises to them?

*those who are waiting for His return in Heb. 9:28.*

*Hebrews' urgent message is the call to faith and not neglect so great a salvation by the superior Lord Jesus Christ. This faith is a waiting and enduring faith amid suffering.*

*The patient waiting of God's people is empowered by this faith. And this faith is the assurance of hope, grounded on God's Word, the invisible power that created every visible thing (Heb. 11:1-3).*

*This waiting faith expressed in hope for the things invisible becomes the theme for this chapter. It frames the entire chapter 11.*

*We see it explicitly explained in v.3, 10, 13, 16-17, 26-27, 39-40; and lived out by the OT examples cited. This was also the faith demonstrated in the early days of Hebrews' first readers in 10:34-35.*

*Surely, this chapter is written so that we may be encouraged,*

## INTERPRETATION



What is the meaning and significance of your observations?

(This segment requires you to reflect on what you have observed in the earlier segment)

6. How do these Old Testament saints impress on you what God-pleasing faith is?
7. How does Moses' example teach us to put our faith in Christ when, by faith, he endured reproach for Christ, kept the Passover, applied the sprinkled blood, led Israel through the Red Sea, and annihilated Egypt's army (vv. 26-29)?
8. What does it mean for you that v.40 says God held back the Old Testament saints' rewards so that *only together with us*, they would be made perfect?

and examine our faith, to be sure it is of the same substance.

For beyond the sufferings of this life, this faith sees Him as **THE REWARDER** of those who seek Him. For the testimonies of God's people throughout Old Testament history portrayed in Hebrews 11 remind us of Jesus' words in Jn 5:39, that the Scriptures where eternal life is found bear witness to Him and are about Him.

So, with this faith, we hold fast to Him, our supremely superior Lord Jesus, as we await with all God's people His soon and final return.

## BIG IDEA



What is the main message of the passage?  
(Sum up the main idea and supporting ideas)

## APPLICATION



Why did the Holy Spirit give us this text?  
(Considering the big idea and the Holy Spirit's intent helps us make applications faithful to the text.)

9. How does v.38 surprise you or shape your perspective on what faith is, its value, and what it can endure, when it says, "*the world was not worthy of them,*" though "they wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground"?

10. How does knowing God as a rewarder of faith grow your hope in Christ and strengthen you in trials?

11. What are some trying circumstances/relationships in your life? What can you do to turn them into opportunities to demonstrate/grow your faith in Christ?

### **GROUP: DISCIPLESHIP FOCUS**

You may do the following as a DG:

1. Pray as a group for those who share about the hard choices they need to make or when you need to make hard choices, that God will grant them and you the resources, wisdom, discernment, faith and courage to patiently work out the next steps in responsible and God-honouring ways.
2. Pray as a group that God will teach each of you to grow in faith, hope, and love by appreciating more deeply God's eternal plan of salvation for us who are in this body of Christ.
3. Pray that, like the Patriarchs, God will enable us to pass on our faith and hope to the next generation by living our entire life for that hope.