



A Series on the Hall of Fame of Faith in Hebrews 11

FINDING A FORWARD FAITH

A Publication of Ray Reynolds Rap

BIBLE CLASS STUDY GUIDE

Workbook by Ray Reynolds, Ph.D.

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Study Guide for Hebrews 11

Table of Contents

BIBLE STUDY OUTLINES	PAGE
LESSON ONE = <i>Faith Wakes: Believers (vs.1-3)</i>	3
LESSON TWO = <i>Faith Worships: Abel (v.4).</i>	4
LESSON THREE = <i>Faith Walks: Enoch (vs.5-6).</i>	5
LESSON FOUR = <i>Faith Works: Noah (v.7)</i>	6
LESSON FIVE = <i>Faith Waits: Abraham & Sarah (vs.8-19)</i>	7
LESSON SIX = <i>Faith Witnesses: Isaac (v.20)</i>	8
LESSON SEVEN = <i>Faith Wrestles: Jacob (v.21)</i>	9
LESSON EIGHT = <i>Faith Wishes: Joseph (vs.22).</i>	10
LESSON NINE = <i>Faith Weighs: Amram & Jochebed (vs.23)</i>	11
LESSON TEN = <i>Faith Wanders: Moses (vs.24-29)</i>	12
LESSON ELEVEN = <i>Faith Wars: Joshua (v.30)</i>	13
LESSON TWELVE = <i>Faith Wants: Rahab (v.31)</i>	14
LESSON THIRTEEN = <i>Faith Wins: Many Other Believers (vs.32-40)</i>	15

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LESSON ONE = Faith Wakes: Believers (vs.1-3)

Introduction: The writer of the book of Hebrews will tell the stories of men and women of faith that were so fearless that they sacrificed their lives in the name of faith. What made them so fearless? How can we improve on our own faith? In this series of lessons, I want to explore the subject of faith, but I want us to do it by examining one of the most famous passages of Scripture (**Hebrews 11**). The word faith is used 38 times book of Hebrews and 23 times in this chapter alone. Surely, there is something new that we can learn about faith. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. We May Possess "Incomplete" Knowledge

Psalm 8:1, Psalm 19:1-2, Romans 1:20-21

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

How can we wake up spiritually?

How can life circumstances help us?

II. We May Possess "Intellectual" Knowledge

Deuteronomy 7:9, Psalm 46:10, Titus 1:16

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

Why are many Christians confused by science?

What can we do to encourage biblical intellectualism?

III. We Must Possess "Intimate" Knowledge

Psalm 139:1-2, Psalm 139:13-18, I John 2:3-4

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

What will happen if we know God, but do not have a relationship with Him?

How can the Holy Spirit help us have an intimate knowledge of God?

Conclusion: Before the Hebrew writer closes out his discussion on faith, he reminds his readers of the faith of the men and women who have known God and lived their godly lives in front of others. He describes their fearless faith in **Hebrews 11:33-40**. Would this describe your faith? Are you faithful? Are you fearless? Are you moving forward in faith?

FINDING A FORWARD FAITH

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LESSON TWO = Faith Worships: Abel (v.4)

Introduction: One great contrast of the Bible is seen between the example of Cain and Abel. Jesus reminded the disciples that there are only two ways: straight/narrow way which lead to life (true) and the broad way that leads to death (false). Cain was rejected and Abel was accepted. Every son of Adam is either like Abel or Cain. Abel is known for offering sacrifices that were pleasing to God (**Genesis 4**). They were heartfelt sacrifices. Remember that faith prompted him to worship in accordance to God's Word (**Romans 10:17**). His faithful worship (sacrifice) showed his righteousness (being right with God). Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Abel Acknowledged His Need For God's Presence

Romans 5:12, Genesis 3:15, Genesis 3:21, Hebrews 11:4

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

Why is it important to recognize God's presence in worship?

II. Abel Acknowledged His Need For God's Forgiveness

Genesis 4:4-8, Genesis 4:9-24, Matthew 25:35, Luke 11:51, Hebrews 11:4

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

How can confession help us in worship?

III. Abel Acknowledged His Need For God's Grace

Deuteronomy 6:5, Hebrews 11:4, Genesis 4:4, Ephesians 2:8-9

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

Why should we reflect on God's grace when we worship?

IV. Abel Acknowledged His Need For God's Acceptance

Hebrews 11:4, Hebrews 12:24, I John 3:12, Jude 11, Romans 12:1-2

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

What can we learn about our position with God when we worship God?

Conclusion: Abel is a powerful example for us. We can build on that foundation of faith. However, we should also remember that he would only point us to the Lord. Remember that "*Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant*" and His testimony is greater than Abel's (**Hebrews 12:24**). He is the perfect Lamb of God that has taken away the sins of the world. The question is, "Will you accept His sacrifice?" Does his blood speak to you? Are you moving forward in faith?

FINDING A FORWARD FAITH

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LESSON THREE = Faith Walks: Enoch (vs.5-6)

Introduction: Enoch was the seventh from Adam through Seth (**Genesis 5:24, Jude 14**) and is a part of that “godly” lineage of believers. The Bible also follows the story of the third from Adam through Cain, which is the “ungodly” line (**Genesis 4:17**). With all of the ungodliness around him, Enoch is known for walking with God (**Genesis 5**). Enoch walked with God in a day when others were walking away from God. "Walking" has to do with the way one lives. Enoch's faith was visible in he lived the way God wanted him to live... he was rewarded. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Enoch Preached the Word of God

Jude 14-15, Genesis 6:5, Matthew 24:37-44, II Timothy 3:1-5, I Timothy 4:1, II Timothy 4:3

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

What kind of a message should we be preaching and teaching?

II. Enoch Walked With God

John 7:7, 15:19, Romans 12:1-2, Galatians 1:4, Ephesians 2:2, James 4:4, I John 5:19

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

What kind of a walk should we have with God?

III. Enoch Was An Exemplary Man of God

Genesis 6:5, Jude 14-15, Psalm 23:3-4, 3:6, 27:1-4, 118:6, Isaiah 41:10, I Corinthians 15:55-57

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

What can we learn from the focus and determination of Enoch?

IV. Enoch Was Rewarded By God

Deuteronomy 10:12-13, Micah 6:8, Romans 6:23, 8:8, I John 1:6-7, Hebrews 9:27, 13:6

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

How can fellowship with God motivate us?

Conclusion: Enoch walked with God like no other before him. He refused to walk an independent life and became totally dependent upon God. Do you have that kind of faith? Are you ready for God to take you home? Are you moving forward in faith?

FINDING A FORWARD FAITH

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LESSON FOUR = Faith Works: Noah (v.7)

Introduction: Many of us remember being taught the story of Noah and his ark when we were children. Noah was considered a man of great faith (**Genesis 6:1-8**). Noah is known for building an ark for God (**Genesis 6-10**). **I Corinthians 10:1-10** reminds us that the things that happened so that we might learn. We can read that “*Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord*” (**Genesis 6:8**). Noah took God at His word and that pleased God. The only proof Noah had of an impending flood was what God told Noah. How could he have such faith? Let’s study together...

Discussion:

I. Noah Had A Convicted Faith

Matthew 6:33, John 14:15, Matthew 7:21, I Timothy 5:8, Joshua 24:15, II Peter 2:5,
What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

What can we learn from the priorities of Noah?

II. Noah Had A Committed Faith

Genesis 6:22, 7:5, 7:9, 7:16, John 14:1-6, Revelation 22:20, Matthew 24:43, I Corinthians 6:2
What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

What can we learn from the commitment and dedication of Noah?

III. Noah Had A Courageous Faith

Genesis 6:8-13, 6:17, 6:18, 7:3, 7:4, 8:21, II Peter 2:4-5
What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

What can we learn from the courage of Noah?

IV. Noah Had A Contagious Faith

Genesis 6:9, Psalm 119:172, I John 3:7-10, Hebrews 5:8-9, I John 1:7-9.
What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

Why did Noah’s family follow him onto the ark?

Conclusion: Noah was a preacher of righteousness (**II Peter 2:4-5**). We are also given the Great Commission to try to save a world that will soon perish because of sin (**Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16**). Will you tell someone before it is too late? Will you repent before the time is at hand? Will you establish a strong faith in God? Are you moving forward in faith?

FINDING A FORWARD FAITH

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LESSON FIVE: = Faith Waits: Abraham & Sarah (vs.8-19)

Introduction: Abraham and Sarah are known for having to wait years for a child (**Genesis 12-21**). But God answered their prayers! What kind of a faith did they have in God? How does that affect their children, grandchildren, and generations to come? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. The Plea of God (v.8)

Galatians 3:17, Exodus 12:40-41, Genesis 15:14, Genesis 12:1-4, Genesis 21:5, Genesis 25:7

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

What can we learn about the call of God to Abram?

II. The Promise of God (vs.9-10)

Galatians 4:28, Hebrews 12:22, 13:14, Revelation 20-21, Acts 7:5

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

What can we learn about the promise God made to Abram?

III. The Power of God (vs.11-12)

Genesis 17-18, 23:3-20, 25:7-11, Luke 1:37

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

Why do people doubt God when he has clearly displayed His power?

IV. The Pleasure of God (vs.13-16)

Genesis 12:7, 13:15-16, 15:3-5, 15:18-21, 17:2-4, 22:16, 17:8, 22:18

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

What does God expect from His people? Why?

V. The Protection of God (vs.17-19)

Genesis 17:1, 17:21, 18:14-19, 21:9-14, 22:1-14, James 2:21-23

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

What does God do for His people when they place their faith in Him?

Conclusion: Abraham and Moses are the only men that are mentioned in this great Hall of Fame of Faith more than once. Abraham and Sarah are people that demand our attention. We have the opportunity to learn from their legacy of faith that they left with Isaac and then with Jacob and eventually with Joseph. Have you heard the call of God? Do you believe in the promises of God? Do you trust in the power of God? Are you moving forward in faith?

FINDING A FORWARD FAITH

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LESSON SIX = Faith Witnesses: Isaac (v.20)

Introduction: The New Testament seems to show things inside out and backward to make a point. Why? The simple answer is that is the way God meant for it to be. He turned things upside-down and inside-out to teach us to trust Him more! This accurately describes the life and faith of Abraham and his family. Isaac is known for being faithful to his father's vision of God and the covenant (**Genesis 21-35**). Isaac looked at God with eyes of faith without compromise. He knew that his father's faith was a powerful faith. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. He Was Prepared To Worship God

Genesis 22:1-14, 6:13-22, John 4:24, Acts 17:11

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

What did Abraham teach Isaac about worship and sacrifice?

How do you think the faith of his father impacted him?

II. He Was Prepared To Obey God

Genesis 22:3-5, Hebrews 11:17-19, I Kings 17:20-24, II Kings 4:32-37, 13:21, Luke 7:11-15, John 11:43-44, 20:1-18, Acts 9:40-41, 20:9-12

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

What did Abraham teach Isaac about resurrection?

What other great stories of resurrection are there in the Bible?

III. He Was Prepared To Meet God

Genesis 22:8-14, Psalm 3, Matthew 6:36, Hebrews 9:27, 12:1-2

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

How do you think this event impacted Isaac's life?

How do you think his children responded when they heard Isaac tell the story?

Conclusion: The faith of Abraham was passed on to his children and his grandchildren. Isaac became a witness for God because of his father's faith. He was eternally impacted because of Abraham. He wanted to be witness for God to others, just like his father Abraham. When he died he passed that faith onto his sons Esau and Jacob...especially Jacob! Are you passing on your faith? Are you a living witness? Are you moving forward in faith?

FINDING A FORWARD FAITH

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LESSON SEVEN = Faith Wrestles: Jacob (v.21)

Introduction: The story of Abraham's faith, and Isaac's faith, continues the story of Jacob. His story takes up a large portion of the book of Genesis. Jacob is known for wrestling with an Angel of God and having his name changed to Israel (**Genesis 25-49**). While Abraham is often referred to as the father of faith, the people of faith wear the name of Abraham's grandson. Jacob witnessed a lot of things in his life, but as he wrestled with God... his faith grew! Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. He Wrestled With His Family

Genesis 25-27, Exodus 20:12, Joshua 24:15, Proverbs 6:20, 15:20, Matthew 15:4

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

How did he wrestle with his parents?

How did he wrestle with his brother?

II. He Wrestled With His Father-in-Law

Genesis 28-31, Exodus 18:1-27, Ruth 1:16-17, Matthew 8:14-17

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

Why did he wrestle with his father-in-law?

III. He Wrestled With His God

Genesis 32-33, Ephesians 6:12-15, Philippians 4:13-14, Psalm 144

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

How did he wrestle with the Lord?

IV. He Wrestled With His Children

Genesis 34-49, Psalm 127:3, Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:4, Colossians 3:20

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

Why did he wrestle with his children?

What did they do to him? What did they do to each other?

Conclusion: Jacob, just like his father before him (Isaac) and his grandfather (Abraham), he passed on his faith to his children. One of them plays a significant role throughout the rest of the book of Genesis (Joseph). Where would we be without godly parents? Are you passing on your faith? Are you moving forward in faith?

FINDING A FORWARD FAITH

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LESSON EIGHT = Faith Wishes: Joseph (vs.22)

Introduction: Joseph is one of my favorite Bible characters. He is one of those great men of God that should be imitated. Joseph is known for his dreams (**Genesis 30-50**). I realize “wishes” may sound immature, but remember that while Joseph was having visions and dreams, he was unsure of how to explain them or interpret them so others could believe. They mistook it for arrogance and pride (maybe a little there). In the end, what does Joseph do for his family? Let’s study together...

Discussion:

I. Joseph Understood the Plight of Man

James 4:14, Genesis 45:4-8, Romans 8:28, Psalm 90:10, Isaiah 38:1, Amos 4:12, James 4:15

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

Why did he relate well to those in suffering?

II. Joseph Understood the Plan of God

Genesis 41:40, Romans 12:3, James 4:10, Acts 4:12, John 8:24, John 14:6, Acts 4:12

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

What did the visions tell him about God’s work?

III. Joseph Understood the Power of Influence

Hebrews 11:4, Matthew 5:16, Romans 14:7, I Timothy 4:12, I Peter 2:21-22

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

What did he do with the influence God had given him?

IV. Joseph Understood the Promises of God

Genesis 12:7, 26:3, 28:13, 50:24-25, Exodus 13:19, Joshua 24:32, John 5:28-29, 14:1-3

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

How can we know that Joseph believed in the promises of God?

V. Joseph Understood the Providence of God

Exodus 1-6, Hebrews 11:22, Exodus 14, Exodus 13:19, Joshua 24:32

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

How can we see God’s mighty hand in Joseph’s life? With the Israelites?

Conclusion: The bones of Joseph reveal his faith (**Hebrews 11:1, 6**). He knew God would keep His promise (**Hebrews 11:22**). And he had an active living faith that caused him to repeat the promises of God (**James 2:26**). Do you have that kind of faith? Are you moving forward in faith?

FINDING A FORWARD FAITH

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LESSON NINE = Faith Weighs: Amram & Jochebed (vs.23)

Introduction: What do we know about Amram & Jochebed? What can we learn about their faith? How did their faith have an impact on their children and the other Israelites? Moses' parents had great faith to hide their son from the Egyptians (**Exodus 1-2**). The King of Egypt wanted to kill all of the young Hebrew boys in land. They decided to weigh the consequences. Let's study together . . .

Discussion:

I. Amram & Jochebed Had A Common Faith

Exodus 1-2, Hebrews 11:23, II Corinthians 6:14, Philippians 2:2, II Timothy 3:5

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

Why is it important to seek out someone who shares your same family values?

II. Amram & Jochebed Had A Courageous Faith

Deuteronomy 31:6, Joshua 1:7-9, Psalm 31:24, Isaiah 41:10-13, I Corinthians 15:58

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

How can we know they trusted in God's providence?

III. Amram & Jochebed Had A Committed Faith

Numbers 30:2, Psalm 37:5, Proverbs 16:3, Luke 9:62, 14:25-62

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

Why did they risk everything to take care of Moses?

IV. Amram & Jochebed Had A Contagious Faith

Matthew 28:18-20, 4:19, Acts 2:40-47, 4:32-35, 5:12-16

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

What did Moses learn from the faith of his parents? Aaron & Miriam?

V. Amram & Jochebed Had A Commendable Faith

Hebrews 11:39, Matthew 8:10, 9:2, Jude 24-25

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

Why do these relatively unknown people belong in this Hall of Fame?

Conclusion: What do people notice about your faith? It would serve us well to examine the great example of Amram, Jochebed, Aaron, Miriam, and Moses. They were a family that had exemplary faith in God and were dedicated to serving Him! Do you trust in God to deliver you and help you? Are you moving forward in faith?

FINDING A FORWARD FAITH

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LESSON TEN = Faith Wanders: Moses (vs.24-29)

Introduction: Who hasn't heard of the story of Moses? Moses is one of the greatest leaders of the Old Testament. His name is mentioned 875 times in the Bible. We read of Moses' seat (**Matthew 23:2**), commands (**Mark 1:44**), permission (**Mark 10:4**), his book (**Mark 12:26**), his law (**Luke 2:22**) and his customs (**Acts 15:1**). Moses accompanies Elijah on the Mt. of Transfiguration (**Matthew 17:1-5**). It was his body that Michael, the arch angel, protected from Satan (**Jude 9**). When Jesus comes again we will be privileged to sing his song for all eternity (**Revelation 15:8**). Moses is known for his work in delivering Israel (**Exodus 2-Deuteronomy 34**), but most of his ministry is spent wandering in the wilderness. How can that help our faith? Let's study together . . .

Discussion:

I. Moses Respected His Heritage

Hebrews 11:24, Acts 7:21-22, Exodus 2:10

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

Why should we know about Moses's heritage?

II. Moses Suffered With His People

Hebrews 11:25, Exodus 2:11-12, Exodus 2:15

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

Why would he choose to suffer with his people when he could have enjoyed himself?

III. Moses Ignored Treasures & Pleasures

Hebrews 11:26, I Timothy 5:6, Matthew 6:33, Matthew 7:12, II Timothy 4:6-8

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

What kind of treasures and pleasures could Moses have enjoyed in Egypt?

IV. Moses Exited His Hometown

Hebrews 11:27, Exodus 2:15, Exodus 10:27-11:1, Matthew 28:20, Romans 8:35-39

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

What is the significance of the 40 years Moses spends in preparation?

Conclusion: We begin our spiritual journey toward the Promised Land when we, like Moses and the Israelites, follow the Lord's direction, call out to Him by name, leave behind the pleasures of sin and earthly treasures, and allow Him to lead us to our real home. Remember what Paul says in **I Corinthians 10:1-4**. In a similar way we need to be baptized into Christ and then commune with Christ and follow Him, the Rock of our salvation. Are you moving forward in faith?

FINDING A FORWARD FAITH

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LESSON ELEVEN = Faith Wars: Joshua (v.30)

Introduction: There are so many people in this Hall of Fame of Faith that are mentioned by name. But those that are not mentioned by name are certainly not less significant. Every man and woman that has stood up for their Lord and responded to the tasks assigned them with faith and perseverance will be given a great reward. Joshua, though not mentioned by name, is known for being a mighty warrior (**Exodus 17-Joshua 24**). When God told him to conquer the land, he went in and did exactly as he was instructed. Let's study together . . .

Discussion:

I. Joshua Did Not Panic

Exodus 14:10-14, I John 4:18, II Timothy 1:7, Joshua 6:1-6, 10:8

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

What had Joshua learned from Moses?

II. Joshua Did Not Interfere With God's Work

Jeremiah 10:23, Proverbs 12:28, 14:12, Isaiah 55:9, Romans 8:31

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

How did Joshua find contentment in being God's warrior?

III. Joshua Did Not Second Guess God

Psalms 52:1, Deuteronomy 29:2-4, Ephesians 1:3, James 1:2-3

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

What happens when we second-guess God?

IV. Joshua Did Not Take His Eyes Off The Prize

Hebrews 12:1-2, I Peter 2:21, Luke 9:62, II Peter 3:11-12, Matthew 17:20

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

What happens when we allow ourselves to be distracted?

Conclusion: Joshua did not allow water, walls, or enemies to stand between him and the land God had promised the Israelites. All you need is a little faith. God promises He will never leave you or forsake you! Will you learn to trust Him? Are you moving forward in faith?

FINDING A FORWARD FAITH

A Publication of Ray Reynolds Rap *Study Guide for Hebrews 11*

LESSON TWELVE = Faith Wants: Rahab (v.31)

Introduction: The last detailed character of faith listed in this chapter is Rahab. She is a great character because she gives hope to all who wish to change! Rahab is known for hiding the spies in her house in saving her family (**Joshua 2-6**). She was a true believer. James would later give her as an example of faith and one who was justified by her good works (**James 2:25**). Why is she such a terrific person of faith to emulate? Let's study together . . .

Discussion:

I. Rahab Believed in the Providence of God

Joshua 2:1-24, Deuteronomy 2:25, Hebrews 1:14, Matthew 6:33, Philippians 4:19

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

What did Rahab know about the Israelites and their God?

II. Rahab Believed in the Power of God

Joshua 2:10, Numbers 21:21-35, Matthew 19:26, Philippians 4:13, Psalm 139, Psalm 147:5

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

What convinced Rahab that she needed to believe in God?

III. Rahab Believed in the Precepts of God

Joshua 2:11-13, Isaiah 25:47, Matthew 6:9-10, Romans 8:28-31, 9:20-24, Ephesians 1:20-23

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

Why was Rahab willing to abandon her lifestyle to follow God?

IV. Rahab Believed in the Promises of God

Joshua 2:12, Mark 16:15-16, Acts 2:38-39, II Timothy 4:7-8, II Peter 3:9, Matthew 1:5-6

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

What can we learn from the promises of God?

Conclusion: We must not forget that her son Boaz would marry Ruth and bear Obed the father of Jesse! Jesse would have a son named David... Another great man of faith. People often want to associate Rahab with her profession before she joined the Israelites, but that reformed prostitute would become an ally of the children of Israel. Stop looking back! Rahab make the right choice. Will you make the right choice? Are you moving forward in faith?

FINDING A FORWARD FAITH

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LESSON THIRTEEN = Faith Wins: Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, etc. (vs.32-40)

Introduction: For the past several weeks we have discussed great Bible characters as they are outlined in the book of Hebrews. Because of time constraints, and for the sake of space in his letter, the author chooses to end his discourse on faithful followers of God. The gist of the remaining words in this chapter are to encourage us ALL to become faithful servants of God! Let's study together . . .

Discussion:

I. Faith to Look to the Past

Isaiah 43:18, Philippians 3:13 -14, II Corinthians 4:4-6, Hebrews 6:4, Romans 3:27-4:25

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

What can we learn from the promises of God?

What can we learn from the way God has dealt with in the past?

II. Faith to Look at the Present

Matthew 6:20, John 14:2-3, I Thessalonians 2:4, Hebrews 10:38

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

How can we see what God is doing right now?

What evidence do you have that God is still active in the lives of the faithful?

III. Faith to Look to the Future

Matthew 13:3-23, Mark 4:3-20, Luke 8:5-15, Number 14:18, Exodus 34:6

What do these verses tell us? How can we apply them?

What can learn from the reward given to the faithful?

What must we do to receive the same reward?

Conclusion: All these other people, and many more are victorious, because of their faith. The world treated them as if they were not worthy of the world. But in reality the world was not worthy of them. They were just strangers and pilgrims who lived here, and died here, but have gone home to the heavenly country God has established for all of the faithful. These Old Testament people of faith did receive the promise of salvation in Christ while they were living, but God did take them home. May we never forget the great men and women of Scripture that have died in faith. Let's share this wonderful word with others! Are you moving forward in faith?