

HOLY VOCABULARY

Faith // Hebrews 11:1-6

THE POINT: We can confidently trust in what God says and does.

THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

Many people see faith as jumping blindly into something we want to be true. However, this simply isn't the case. It's much more. We aren't called to blind faith. Instead, we are to give serious consideration to the object of our faith. Throughout Scripture, we see who He is and the ways He relates to His people. And in Hebrews 11, the author captured the essence of faith in a single chapter. We see individuals whose faith was grounded in a loving God who is perfectly faithful and who never changes.

► **What do you believe in without ever having seen it?**

HEBREWS 11:1-3

Our universe isn't some accident of physics—it is the intentional work of God who reveals Himself as Creator. As we understand God was faithful, even from the beginning, we then can believe He will be faithful to the future of His creation. The writer of Hebrews reminded us that God made everything from nothing. God spoke and the universe came to be. In spite of what some people think, the powerful, creative work of God does not contradict scientific evidence. Faith helps us understand the how and why behind all that scientific evidence. Faith gives us confidence that God will continue to work His will in our world and in our lives.

- **Who or what do we tend to put our faith in besides God?**
- **What helps you have faith in God even though you can't see Him?**

HEBREWS 11:4

After the writer described faith in verses 1-3, he gave us several examples of people who responded to God "by faith." These heroes of faith were people just like us who saw God working in their world and found ways—sometimes dramatic and courageous ways—to join God in His work. The message is clear—these people trusted God and endured confidently in Him. Cain presents a different picture. He apparently did not show the same worshipful trust in God. Cain had no faith in God, and as a result, his offering was a ritual, not a true act of faith and worship. Cain's offering simply didn't mean much to him—therefore, it didn't mean much to God. Our confidence that God alone is God and no one is like Him affects our choices and actions. The truth is that there is no one greater than God, and He alone is worthy of the best we have to give. Therefore, we should offer Him the best we have.

- **What's the relationship between faith and genuine worship?**
- **How can the ways you live out your faith affect others?**

HEBREWS 11:5-6

The writer of Hebrews referred to Enoch as his second example of a person who lived by faith. We know very little about Enoch, but what we do know is extraordinary. After pointing to Enoch, the writer of Hebrews stopped to emphasize his point: Without faith, it is impossible to please God. The church has often stressed the priority of faith over works, and this passage helps us understand why faith takes priority. Without faith, works would never happen. There's no motivation to do anything if we don't believe that He exists and rewards those who seek Him. We live the way we live because we know God exists. We desire to be freed from sin's consequences, which affect all people in this life, and to receive the eternal blessing of living in relationship with God.

- **Why is faith a necessary element for a relationship with God?**
- **What does it look like to please God with our lives?**



LIVE IT OUT

Unit 1 // Session 4

> CHRIST

Faith is, essentially, trusting in Jesus in a way that leads to obedience.

> How would you describe your trust in Christ?

> In the past, how have you demonstrated that you trust Him? How have you failed to trust Jesus?

> How will you live this week to show your trust in Jesus?

> COMMUNITY

Because God is faithful and trustworthy, we are called to reflect this in the ways we live.

> Do you think people see you as faithful and trustworthy? Why?

> When is it difficult to live in ways that others would trust us?

> How is God calling you to be faithful to the people in your life?

> CULTURE

We are called to express our faith.

> As you live in obedient faith, others will take notice.

> Ask God for opportunities to tell someone else why you believe in Him and choose to live by faith in Christ.