

# Bible Study Guide - Hebrews 11:1-12

Bellevue Church of Christ – Fall / Winter 2017-2018

## The Definition of Faith (Chapter 11)

### Heb 10:37-39

- (1) Those who shrink back
- (2) Those who have faith

The actions of everyone described in this chapter are recorded in OT scripture and explicitly linked to their faith.

### By Faith...

**We** (3) - Faith is a present and continuing reality

**Abel** (4) - How did Abel offer "a more acceptable sacrifice?" How does Abel speak to us today?

- Gen 4:3-7
- Mt 23:35
- 1Jn 3:12

**Enoch** (5) - How do we know that Enoch had faith?

- Gen 5:24

**Noah** (7) - What motivated Noah to build the ark? How did Noah "condemn" the world?

- Gen 6:9, 13

**Abraham** (8-12)

- Acts 7:2-8; Rom 4:3; Gal 3:6; James 2:23

- Gen 12:1-7; 13:14-18; 15:5; 22:17; 23

- Exod 32:13; Deut 1:10; 10:22; Dan 3:36

**Sarah** (11)

- Gen 18:9-15; 21-1-6

## The Greater Response (Chapters 11 to 13)

<sup>1</sup>Now **faith** is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup>For by it the **people of old** received their **commendation**. <sup>3</sup>**By faith** **we** understand that the universe **was created by the word of God**, so that what is seen was **not made out of things that are visible**.

Faith gives us conviction regarding creation, even though we did not witness it (Gen 1:1-2:3)

<sup>4</sup>**By faith** **Abel** offered to God a **more acceptable sacrifice** than **Cain**, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, **he still speaks**. <sup>5</sup>**By faith** **Enoch** was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because **God had taken him**. Now before he was taken he was **commended as having pleased God**. <sup>6</sup>**And without faith it is impossible to please him**, for whoever would draw near to God **must believe that he exists** and that **he rewards those who seek him**. <sup>7</sup>**By faith** **Noah**, being **warned by God** concerning events as **yet unseen**, in **reverent fear** constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he **condemned the world** and became an heir of the righteousness that comes **by faith**.

**Noah's Motivation** -> (1) Faith (2) God's Warning (3) Reverent Fear

<sup>8</sup>**By faith** **Abraham** obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And **he went out, not knowing where he was going**. <sup>9</sup>**By faith** **he** went to **live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land**, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>**For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God**.

<sup>11</sup>**By faith** **Sarah** herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since **she considered him faithful who had promised**. <sup>12</sup>Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants **as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore**.

### Faith is...

\*Faith is a present and continuing reality.

There are realities for which we have no material evidence.

\*Faith enables us to know they exist.

\*Faith is that by which we test things unseen.

\*Faith is the structure of everything in a Christian's life, and all that the Christian hopes for.

The reason we know Enoch had faith.

### Faith - Please Him

\*Must believe that He exists

\*He rewards those who seek Him  
-James 2:14-26

Did Abraham own any land in Canaan?  
-Gen 23

<- Heb 12:22

## Hebrews Chapter 11 - Questions for Discussion

What does it mean to have faith in Jesus Christ?

The Journey to Faith in Jesus:

1. R \_\_\_\_\_  
(vv. Rom 3:9, 19-20, 23; 7:15-20; Matt 5:3-4)
  
2. R \_\_\_\_\_  
(vv. Rom 3:22a, 26; John 3:16)
  
3. R \_\_\_\_\_  
(vv. James 1:19-21; Matt 5:5-6)
  
4. R \_\_\_\_\_  
(vv. **Heb 11:1**; II Cor 5:7; John 20:29)
  
5. R \_\_\_\_\_  
(vv. **Heb 11**; James 2:14-25; 1:22)

Is verse one a complete definition of faith? In a practical way, what does this description mean for our day-to-day life?

What example does the author give of something that faith causes us to understand? (v. 3)

How did Abel offer “a more excellent sacrifice than Cain?” How does Abel speak to us today? (vv. 4; Gen 4:3-7; Matt 23:35; I John 3:12)

Who was Enoch? What happened to him? How do we know that Enoch had faith? (vv. 5-6; Gen 5:24)

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What is necessary to please God? What two things are required of those who come to Him (worship)? (v. 6; James 2:19)

What motivated Noah to build the ark? How did Noah “condemn” the world? (vv. 7; Gen 6:9, 13)

What things did Abraham do/receive by faith that are mentioned in verses 8-19?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 8; Gen 12:1-7)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 9; Gen 23; Acts 7:5)

What did Abraham have in view as did these things? (v. 10; 12:22)

3. \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 11-12)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 17-19; Gen 22:1-19)

## Teacher's Notes

### Faith / Shrink Back

#### Hebrews 10:37–39 (ESV)

<sup>37</sup> For,

“Yet a little while,  
and the coming one will come and will not delay;

<sup>38</sup> but my righteous one shall live by faith,  
and if he shrinks back,  
my soul has no pleasure in him.”

<sup>39</sup> But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

### Creation

#### Genesis 1:1–2:3 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

<sup>3</sup> And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. <sup>4</sup> And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup> God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

<sup>6</sup> And God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” <sup>7</sup> And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. <sup>8</sup> And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

<sup>9</sup> And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. <sup>10</sup> God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>11</sup> And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so. <sup>12</sup> The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

<sup>14</sup> And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, <sup>15</sup> and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it

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was so. <sup>16</sup> And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. <sup>17</sup> And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, <sup>18</sup> to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup> And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.” <sup>21</sup> So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup> And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” <sup>23</sup> And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup> And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. <sup>25</sup> And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” <sup>29</sup> And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. <sup>31</sup> And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

<sup>1</sup> Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. <sup>2</sup> And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. <sup>3</sup> So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

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By Faith...

**ABEL**

**Genesis 4:3–7 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, <sup>4</sup> and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup> but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. <sup>6</sup> The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? <sup>7</sup> If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.”

**Matthew 23:35 (ESV)**

<sup>35</sup> so that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar.

**1 John 3:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother’s righteous.

**ENOCH**

**Genesis 5:24 (ESV)**

<sup>24</sup> Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

**NOAH**

**Genesis 6:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.

**Genesis 6:13 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> And God said to Noah, “I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

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**ABRAHAM**

**Acts 7:2–8 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> And Stephen said:

“Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran, <sup>3</sup> and said to him, ‘Go out from your land and from your kindred and go into the land that I will show you.’ <sup>4</sup> Then he went out from the land of the Chaldeans and lived in Haran. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living. <sup>5</sup> Yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot’s length, but promised to give it to him as a possession and to his offspring after him, though he had no child. <sup>6</sup> And God spoke to this effect—that his offspring would be sojourners in a land belonging to others, who would enslave them and afflict them four hundred years. <sup>7</sup> ‘But I will judge the nation that they serve,’ said God, ‘and after that they shall come out and worship me in this place.’ <sup>8</sup> And he gave him the covenant of circumcision. And so Abraham became the father of Isaac, and circumcised him on the eighth day, and Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob of the twelve patriarchs.

**Romans 4:3 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”

**Galatians 3:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”?

**James 2:23 (ESV)**

<sup>23</sup> and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God.

**Genesis 12:1–7 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4</sup> So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup> And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, <sup>6</sup> Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup> Then the

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LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

### **Genesis 13:14–18 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, “Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, <sup>15</sup> for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. <sup>16</sup> I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. <sup>17</sup> Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you.” <sup>18</sup> So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD.

### **Genesis 15:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

### **Genesis 22:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies,

### **Exodus 32:13 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore by your own self, and said to them, ‘I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your offspring, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ”

### **Deuteronomy 1:10 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> The LORD your God has multiplied you, and behold, you are today as numerous as the stars of heaven.

### **Deuteronomy 10:22 (ESV)**

<sup>22</sup> Your fathers went down to Egypt seventy persons, and now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars of heaven.

### **Song of Three Youths 13 (NRSV)**

<sup>13</sup> to whom you promised  
to multiply their descendants like the stars of heaven  
and like the sand on the shore of the sea.

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### SARAH

#### Genesis 18:9–15 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> They said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?” And he said, “She is in the tent.” <sup>10</sup> The LORD said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. <sup>11</sup> Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. <sup>12</sup> So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?” <sup>13</sup> The LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ <sup>14</sup> Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.” <sup>15</sup> But Sarah denied it, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was afraid. He said, “No, but you did laugh.”

#### Genesis 21:1–6 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised. <sup>2</sup> And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. <sup>3</sup> Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac. <sup>4</sup> And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. <sup>5</sup> Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. <sup>6</sup> And Sarah said, “God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me.”

### Did Abraham own any land in Canaan?

#### Genesis 23 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Sarah lived 127 years; these were the years of the life of Sarah. <sup>2</sup> And Sarah died at Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham went in to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her. <sup>3</sup> And Abraham rose up from before his dead and said to the Hittites, <sup>4</sup> “I am a sojourner and foreigner among you; give me property among you for a burying place, that I may bury my dead out of my sight.” <sup>5</sup> The Hittites answered Abraham, <sup>6</sup> “Hear us, my lord; you are a prince of God among us. Bury your dead in the choicest of our tombs. None of us will withhold from you his tomb to hinder you from burying your dead.” <sup>7</sup> Abraham rose and bowed to the Hittites, the people of the land. <sup>8</sup> And he said to them, “If you are willing that I should bury my dead out of my sight, hear me and entreat for me Ephron the son of Zohar, <sup>9</sup> that he may give me the cave of Machpelah, which he owns; it is at the end of his field. For the full price let him give it to me in your presence as property for a burying place.”

<sup>10</sup> Now Ephron was sitting among the Hittites, and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the hearing of the Hittites, of all who went in at the gate of his city, <sup>11</sup> “No, my lord, hear me: I give you the field, and I give you the cave that is in it. In the sight of the sons of my people I give it to you. Bury your dead.” <sup>12</sup> Then Abraham bowed down

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before the people of the land. <sup>13</sup> And he said to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, “But if you will, hear me: I give the price of the field. Accept it from me, that I may bury my dead there.” <sup>14</sup> Ephron answered Abraham, <sup>15</sup> “My lord, listen to me: a piece of land worth four hundred shekels of silver, what is that between you and me? Bury your dead.” <sup>16</sup> Abraham listened to Ephron, and Abraham weighed out for Ephron the silver that he had named in the hearing of the Hittites, four hundred shekels of silver, according to the weights current among the merchants.

<sup>17</sup> So the field of Ephron in Machpelah, which was to the east of Mamre, the field with the cave that was in it and all the trees that were in the field, throughout its whole area, was made over <sup>18</sup> to Abraham as a possession in the presence of the Hittites, before all who went in at the gate of his city. <sup>19</sup> After this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah east of Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan. <sup>20</sup> The field and the cave that is in it were made over to Abraham as property for a burying place by the Hittites.

### Designer and Builder

#### Hebrews 12:22 (ESV)

<sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,