

OPEN

Who is your favorite superhero or movie character? Why?

Do you think you are heroic? Why or why not?

When we read Hebrews 11, a chapter all about the Old Testament heroes of faith, it is easy to think that they are uniquely different from us. It's almost like they had some kind of spiritual superpower we could never hope to have in our own lives. But the men and women of Hebrews 11 were ordinary people, and some were extraordinary sinners. They were just like you and me. What set them apart as examples of faithfulness was their willingness to follow God wherever he led.

In this session, Derwin will teach us how we can have a heroic faith and live a life worthy of emulation.

READ

Read Hebrews 11. If you are pressed for time, read Hebrews 11:1–6 and 23–26.

Note: If you would like to read through the entire book of Hebrews, you can find a reading plan in the **Go Deeper Section 1** at the end of each session of this study.

WATCH

Before viewing the session, here are a few important things to look for in Derwin Gray's teaching. As you watch, pay attention to how he answers the following questions.

Why were the men and women of Hebrews 11 commended for their faith?

How do we grow closer to God?

What does faith help us see and do?

Session 7: Living by Faith (14 minutes).

DISCUSS

Living by faith may feel intimidating, but Derwin reminded us that God will never call us to something without seeing us through it. Instead of staying still in our comfortable circumstances, let’s examine what it looks like to live by faith. Read Hebrews 11:1–3.

How would you define “faith”?

Do you think living by faith is valued today? Why or why not?

What role do you think God plays in your life? How involved is he in the world around you?

If you believe God is active in your life, what do you think he is up to right now?

Some people today may think that to have faith, you must trust in something you do not understand. But according to these verses, faith begins with understanding. In verse 3, we learn the first step of living by faith is knowing that God made the universe and set it into motion. Derwin said it like this: “The eyes of faith see the bigness of God.”

What makes it difficult to trust God when we cannot see what he is doing?

If the God who set the world in motion also loves us, then we can trust him with his plan. He is bigger than our difficulties, our fears, our past trauma, and our future. **In what areas of your life do you need a big God?**

In the video, Derwin talked about having a “mustard seed faith.” Mustard seeds are some of the smallest seeds in the world but can become enormous trees when they are watered and cared for. In the same way, we only need a small faith to approach God. When we trust him with that little bit of faith, he will grow it. **What big prayers has God answered in your life?**

In what ways has God taken care of you in the past? How has God’s past faithfulness grown your faith?

Living by faith is not just about trusting God for our own good but also about trusting his guidance when our way seems unsure. The men and women whom Hebrews 11

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Moses had no power of his own. Everything he accomplished happened because he trusted God’s power in every circumstance. When faced with an opportunity to live by faith, Moses chose to be bold and trust in God’s provision.

What uncertainty are you facing today?

What would it look like to boldly trust God and his timing despite any fear or uncertainty?

Note: To learn about the fifth and final warning of Hebrews, go to **Go Deeper Section 3** at the end of this study.

Derwin’s final point in the video was, “The eyes of faith recognize the big power of God.” It can be easy to think we get through life by our own effort and power, but God is the one in control. Living by faith pulls back the curtain and lets us see God’s goodness with each new morning.

What is the next step of faithfulness God is calling you to?

What does it look like for you to trust God with tomorrow?

LAST WORD

Living by faith today gives us the assurance we need to trust God with tomorrow. When we see God accomplish things both big and small in our lives, our faith becomes trusted assurance and our faith, which was once small, grows.

You don’t need a super-hero faith to be like the people in Hebrews 11. You simply need to be willing to trust him with today. Your life is like a blank piece of paper—what story will you let God write with your life?

Lined writing area consisting of 20 horizontal lines for taking notes.

Following Jesus may lead us to do things we never thought possible or into seasons of difficulty we never imagined. But through it all, we should live like Jesus, pressing onward to God’s greater reward. Pray as you go throughout your day that God would show you opportunities to live faithfully, reveal sins that you should lay aside, and remind you of his glory.

3. The Final Warning of Hebrews: Unresponsiveness

Apathy is a serious problem in the church. We stream sermons from multiple pastors, go to church multiple times a week, know the Bible inside and out, and yet we can be bored with and unmoved by the truth that surrounds us. We know we should press onward and “run the race set before us” but the motivation to change can be . . . elusive. Read Hebrews 12:18–24.

This passage compares and contrasts the old covenant of law and the new covenant of grace. **What are the seven ways the author describes the old covenant in verses 18 and 19, and how did people respond to it?**

When God gave the Law to his people at Mount Sinai, it was a terrifying and dangerous experience (Exodus 19:9–23; Deuteronomy 4:11; 9:8–21). The Law was holy, pointing out the sins of God’s people and letting them know their sin incurred the wrath of God. They knew, quite clearly, the warning of Hebrews 10:31, “It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

But the new covenant was wholly different. Instead of coming to judgment, we have come to something greater. **What are the seven qualities the author uses to describe the new covenant in verses 22 to 24? Who has God called us to?**

We are at peace with God, but that doesn’t mean we can sit back, relax, and live however we please. Read Hebrews 12:25–29.

Why should we continue to carefully listen to and obey God?

We can be thankful that we have avoided what the Israelites glimpsed at Mount Sinai, but we cannot ignore God. He is the same one who spoke at Sinai and will once again “shake,” or judge, the world, doing away with sin

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and evil once and for all. We are at peace with God, but we must realize that he is to be revered, not taken for granted. When he speaks, we must pay attention.

In what ways can we ignore God as we go through our daily routine?

What are the distractions in our lives that cause us to forget God and his commands?

Rather than allowing ourselves to be distracted, we should remind ourselves of who God is, what he has done for us, and the assurance we have in Jesus. The result of thinking about God should be reverence, awe, and a lifestyle of worship.

How can you remind yourself of God’s bigness—his majesty, power, and care for you—when you feel uninspired to serve him?

What could you do to remind yourself of Jesus and the example he set for us when you want to give up on God’s plan?

In what ways can you encourage and serve those you have “come to”—the church—as we all seek to serve God in reverence and awe?

Horizontal lines for writing answers to the questions.