



The Faith Chapter – Day One, March 11

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. 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. Hebrews 11:1-3

The Faith Chapter – Hebrews 11 is one of our **Key Passages** in Children's Bible Drill. Key Passages are some of the most important passages in the Bible and our children memorize where they are located. Knowing the locations of these passages are very helpful for sharing our faith with others.

Faith is one of the great words in the Bible! It is one of the nine qualities listed in the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22. *Faith means that we believe God is real, trustworthy, and dependable.* Faith is belief and trust in God. It is also belief that what God has told us about Himself and people in the Bible is true. Faith makes a difference in attitudes, thoughts, words, and actions towards God, other people, and a person's own self.

Faith is always active; it is a commitment of both mind and heart. Faith is believing in someone that we cannot see or touch. Faith in Jesus Christ is essential to our salvation! We can trust God to do all that He has promised to do for us – He is always faithful. Because He created all things, He has the power to take care of us in every situation.

Like a house resting on a solid foundation, our lives are secure when we trust them to God. Hebrews 11 presents a long list of great men and women (the ancients) who trusted and had deep faith in God. Some of these heroes of faith suffered terrible things and made bad choices along the way, but they endured bravely and remained true to their faith in God. Faith led them to trust their futures to God. We, too, should trust our futures to God!

This week we will look at these heroes of our faith to see how God did mighty things through ordinary people that He called and equipped. We will learn from their stories. I hope that you will be challenged and encouraged!

Think of some ways that faith in Jesus Christ helps you meet the pressures of every day. Do you trust your future to God? If not, ask someone to help you learn to trust Him wholly with your life. Thank God for always being trustworthy and faithful!

Abel's Sacrifice – Day Two, March 12

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. Hebrews 11:4

Abel (read his story in Genesis 4:1-16) was the second son of Adam and Eve. His name means "breath" or "vapor." Abel was a shepherd who pleased God with his worship. He offered God some of the firstborn of his flock. His brother, Cain, offered some of his crops to the Lord. Cain's sacrifice did not please God, and so Cain became angry and murdered Abel. The contrast between the two sacrifices was between a choice, generous offering from Abel and a careless, thoughtless offering from Cain. Motivation and heart attitude were most important! God looked upon Abel's offering with favor because of Abel's faith. Abel

giving his first-born was indicative of his recognition that all the productivity of his flock is from God – and ultimately it all belongs to God.

Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. 1 John 3:12

Sacrifice is what the believer brought to God to express their love, thanksgiving, or for the need for forgiveness. Sacrifices continued throughout the Old Testament. We live by our faith today through Jesus Christ. Jesus' death provided the one and only sacrifice that removes our sin. Christians are still to bring sacrifices offered in worship and to give up our own desires to follow Jesus.

Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But He has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. Hebrews 9:26

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:1-2

What is the heart behind your sacrifices, worship, and giving? Are you a joyful giver and give because of your love for God and to acknowledge that what you have already belongs to Him anyways? What motivates your heart to worship, give, or serve? Does your worship and service come from the overflow of what you are learning from God? Does your worship come from a place of great love and awe? Or is it just a habit? Pray about your heart and attitudes this day.

¹⁰ *Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

¹¹ *Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.* ¹² *Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Psalm 51:10-12*

Enoch Pleased God – Day Three, March 13

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." For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. Hebrews 11:5

Enoch was the great-great-great-great grandson of Adam, and he is also Noah's great grandfather. Enoch was also the father of Methuselah, the longest-living man. Enoch is often best-known as only one of two people (*Elijah being the other*) taken straight to heaven, thereby escaping dying and death.

We know that Enoch is listed in the "Hall of Faith Heroes" in Hebrews 11 where he was commended for his faith in God. Why is he listed there? There are a few things that we can learn about Enoch from the Bible.

After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked faithfully with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Enoch lived a total of 365 years. Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away. Genesis 5:22-24

We know that Enoch lived a holy and faithful life to the Lord because the Bible tells us that he *walked faithfully with God*. Enoch lived a few hundred years before the Flood, during which time the people on Earth were sinking into moral depravity. Enoch was a faithful man living amongst a deteriorating society of wickedness! He made the choice to walk with God.

In our own world, which also is full of moral depravity, we as Christians are called to righteousness and to walk in faith with God. What does it mean to walk in faith with God? It is having a deep, abiding, and personal relationship with God. How do we accomplish this? Through prayer, Bible study, worship, faith, and living to honor God with our thoughts, words, and actions.

How is your current walk with God? If it is not where you know it should be or want it to be, it is never too late to start fresh! Take small steps to grow closer to God each day. Strive for holiness and righteousness in your life today!

Noah Built a Boat – Day Four, March 14

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. Hebrews 11:7

Noah was a good, blameless, and righteous man who walked with God. Noah was the father of Shem, Ham, and Japheth – all of whom were born when Noah was 500 years old! Noah and his family lived during a time of great evil and corruption (*Genesis 6:8*). God warned Noah that he was going to remove all the people from the earth because of their sin, but because Noah's godly life was in stark contrast to the rest of the people, He would spare Noah and his family.

God instructed Noah to build an ark, which God would use to save his family and the animals while God destroyed the world with a great flood. Because Noah was a man of great faith, he listened to and obeyed God and did all that God commanded. It took about 100 years for Noah to build the ark. Then God brought the animals to Noah and the rain started to fall – for 40 days and 40 nights. After 150 days, the water began to recede. Once the land was dry, Noah, his family, and all the animals left the ark. God sent a rainbow to show His promise that He would never destroy the earth again with water. Noah's story is found in *Genesis 6:9-9:17*.

I can only imagine what the people thought about Noah! I'm sure everyone considered him crazy for building a giant boat in the middle of dry land, but Noah trusted God and obeyed Him. And God kept His promises – just like He does today. What do people think of Christians that live by faith in God today? Many think that we are crazy, but can we ever be wrong for obeying and following the Bible and God's plan for our lives? *We may be mocked or worse, but it is always worth it to trust and obey God.*

Back in 2004, I went on a mission trip to Indonesia to work with missionary kids while their parents worked and planned together. This was the first time I was in a country where I wasn't free to openly profess my faith in Jesus. To be honest, I was terrified at times. I realized that I had to walk by faith and trust God in a way that I never had before. It deepened my faith and trust in God and my life was forever changed by this experience.

To what or whom do you place your trust and faith? Do you seek God's will for your life? Or do you only trust your own instincts and plans? Do you trust God when He says to go or do or say? Or do you worry about what other people will think of you? Do you *listen* to God or do you only *tell* God? God rewarded Noah for his perseverance, righteousness, and obedience by saving him and his family. You should persevere and trust in God's plan for you!

Go here to watch Contemporary Christian artist Colton Dixon sing this song about faith entitled *Build a Boat*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjaKKAsQc34>

Abraham: Man of Faith – Day Five, March 15

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore. Hebrews 11:8-12

Do you remember singing the childhood song, *Father Abraham*?

*Father Abraham had many sons, Many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them and so are you, So let's just praise the Lord
Right arm, left arm...*

And by time the song finally ended, you had shaken your arms and legs, nodded your head, spun around and ended up on the floor! I don't remember understanding the song as a kid, but it was fun to sing and it is good for getting the wiggles out!

God had very special plans for Abraham, whose name means "father of a multitude." God told Abraham to leave his home and go to a new place that God would provide. God also promised Abraham that He would make Abraham the father of a great nation – that would number more than all the stars in the sky! Abraham eventually became the first Hebrew and the father of the Hebrew people (*Genesis 14:13*). God was faithful to keep His promise! Abraham (*who was 100*) and his wife Sarah (*who was 90*) had a son whom they named Isaac, which means "*laughter*" (*Genesis 17:1-8*).

Unfortunately, Abraham did not always make the best decisions. He lied and he tried to rush God's promises by taking another wife and having a baby with her. Despite Abraham's weakness, God kept His promise through him. Abraham was a man of great faith regardless of his occasional bad choices.

Imagine that you are Abraham for a moment. What would you have thought and felt if God had asked you to leave your home and go with Him to a new land? Would you trust God with your unknown future? Has God ever called you to do something different or go somewhere you weren't expecting (*or wanting*)? How does God help you know what He wants you to do today?

Abraham's experience reminds us that God's calling is worth responding to, and His promises are worth working toward and waiting on. I get it. I hate to wait too, but that waiting is part of trusting God and persevering. Is God calling you to do something or to go somewhere different? Maybe God is calling you to teach or serve in a new ministry. Maybe God is calling you to mission work or to something else. Pray and seek God's plan for your life. And always trust Him.

*When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will, He abides with us still
And with all who will trust and obey...*

*This week's devotions were prepared for you by Bronwyn Stanley.