

# Hebrews

## Study of Chapter 11

### Day 1

This wonderful chapter has inspired the hearts of believers for generations. Please read the chapter two or three times before starting the study guide. Watch for the main repeated word in this chapter. It is not the first time we have seen this word in the book of Hebrews. Go back through the chapter and highlight it. It is not the only repeated word, but it is certainly the key repeated word.

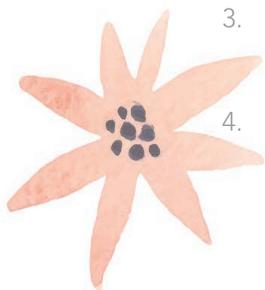
1. Look up the key word in the Strong's Concordance and write a definition.

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2. According to Genesis 1 and Hebrews 11:3, how did everything come into existence? \_\_\_\_\_

3. In what way does knowing this truth about creation affect your walk of faith? \_\_\_\_\_

4. In verses 4-13 we see 5 people mentioned.



Hebrews 11	Old Testament person mentioned	Facts gleaned from the text
Verse 4		
Verse 5		
Verse 7		
Verses 8-10 (stop at 10)		
Verse 11		

5. Hebrews 11:6 is considered by many to be a cornerstone verse in God's word. Why do you believe this is such an important verse?
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6. How did the people mentioned in question 5 please God? Go back and read the definition you wrote in question 1 to help you answer this question.
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## Day 2

7. Next, do a bit of detective work to discover who the author is talking about. Write down the facts given in Hebrews 11:13.
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8. Now that you have the facts listed, go back and look at Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham and Sarah; to which of these people would the facts relate? You may want to read verses 4-12 one more time. Notice the pronouns used in verse 13. I will give you a hint, it was not just one person. If you are still not sure to whom the text is referring, compare Hebrews 11:9 to Hebrews 11:13, and then compare Hebrews 11:10 to Hebrews 11:15-16. Who are the people the author is talking about in Hebrews 11:13?
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Genesis 17:16  
*I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."*

9. The Scripture says God tested Abraham. God had not only promised Abraham a son, but it was to be a son born to Sarah according to Genesis 17:16 and Hebrews 11:18. What was the test of Abraham's faith that revealed his complete trust in God's sovereign plan?
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10. Verse 19 says, "Abraham reasoned;" some translations say, "reckoned or believed." This is the Greek word *logizomai* which is an accounting term. This word refers to facts not supposition. This word deals with reality. If I "logizomai" or reckon that my bank book has \$25 in it, it has \$25 in it. Does knowing this definition help clarify how Abraham could face this test with confidence?
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Genesis 22:5  
*He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."*

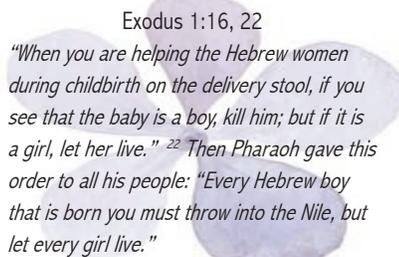
11. Are you facing a test or trial that would be helped by reasoning through the facts you already know about God and his amazing love for you? What are some of those facts?
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12. If you would like to see how totally confident Abraham was that all would be well, and that God would be faithful to His promise, read Genesis 22:5. What did Abraham tell his servants that revealed his faith in God's promise?
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13. People often say, I could never do what Abraham did. You are probably right, but is that what God is asking of you? Why worry about something God has not spoken to you. Why not ask God what He is speaking to you?
14. It is important to notice this act of obedience, this testing, was a one-time event in the life of Abraham. Never again in all the Bible do we read of anyone else being tested in this way. But this was not the only time God spoke to him and desired obedience. How often should we seek God's will for ourselves?
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## Day 3

15. Hebrews 11:20-21 speaks of the faith of Isaac, Jacob and Joseph who passed on the blessing to their sons and believed God for the future, even though they would not be alive to see it. Are you trusting God with the future of your family and loved ones? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you able to continue believing God, even if you never see God's plan unfold in your lifetime? \_\_\_\_\_



Exodus 1:16, 22  
*"When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live." 22 Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live."*

16. The next section of this chapter focuses on Moses. Bible historians tell us that Moses was born nearly 300 years after Joseph died. A lot can change for a nation in 300 years. A Pharaoh had come to power who did not know about Joseph. All this Pharaoh knew was the fact that the Israelites were multiplying at a tremendous rate. The Israelites came to Egypt as a large family but had grown to be a nation. Hebrews 11:23 mentions the king's edict. Read Exodus 1:16 and 22. What was Pharaoh's hideous command?
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17. Most of us have heard the beautiful story of Moses being placed in a basket. God directed the basket to float in the Nile River to the place where the daughter of Pharaoh was bathing. She saw Moses and took him to raise as her own son. God had miraculously spared Moses. He received the best education, training, food and comforts that Egypt had to offer. After he was grown, and could make decisions for himself, how important was all this to Moses?
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18. When the Scripture says, "He chose to be mistreated," to what do you think it might be referring? What kind of mistreatment might he have endured?
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19. To what extent are you willing to sacrifice for God's greater call and rewards, even if they are much later? \_\_\_\_\_
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Matthew 6:19-21

*“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,  
<sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.  
<sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

20. Read Matthew 6:19-21. What is the choice given here?

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What do you believe is meant by treasures in heaven?

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In his notes on this passage, Dr. Charles Stanley asked three questions.

What do you think about most throughout the day?

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What gets your heart beating fastest and loudest?

\_\_\_\_\_

What do you think you couldn't live without?

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Dr. Stanley concluded by saying, “Whatever “it” is, that is your treasure, nothing but God is worthy of it.”

1 Corinthians 15:58

*Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.*

21. Moses faced many obstacles. We know this because the text tells us he persevered. Underline the instructions given by the apostle Paul as a word of encouragement to believers in 1 Corinthians 15:58. What are believers to do when faced with obstacles? \_\_\_\_\_

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James 1:2-5

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. <sup>4</sup> Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. <sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.*

22. Sadly, there are some believers who have been taught the lie, if God is for you, things will always work out well for you. This lie leads to sadness and depression and can wound a heart and ruin the productivity of a life. The truth is, when we face persecution, trials and temptation, God is in it with us. Andy Stanley said, “Never underestimate the power of a measured, faith-filled response.” Read James 1:2-5. What should be our response when we face trials? \_\_\_\_\_

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23. A good question for us to ask ourselves when experiencing trials is: how would someone in my circumstances respond if they were confident that God is with them and for them? \_\_\_\_\_

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Exodus 12:21-23

*Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. <sup>22</sup> Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning. <sup>23</sup> When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.*

## Day 4

24. Look at Hebrews 11:28-29. What did Moses' faith lead him to do?

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If you are not familiar, or if it has been awhile since you read the details of these events, you might like to read Exodus 12:21-23 and Exodus 14:21-31. What was the effect of these events on the people as seen in Exodus 14:31?

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Does seeing the power of God displayed move you in this same way?

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25. Have you seen God move miraculously in a situation? You might like to share this in your small group discussion. \_\_\_\_\_

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26. The author of Hebrews listed one final miraculous display of God's power and faithfulness in verses 30-31. Have you ever been challenged in your walk of faith to do something in obedience to God that sounded absurd, like marching around the city of Jericho? \_\_\_\_\_

What motivated you to do this action, and what was the outcome?

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What was the outcome for the Israelites?

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27. The writer wants the reader to know that this is certainly not the last time the Lord moved in power. In verses 33-35, he lists Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets. What did he say these faith-filled heroes of the faith witnessed?

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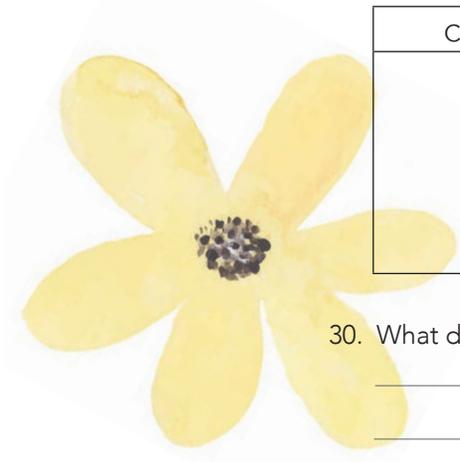
28. It would paint an unrealistic picture if the author stopped with the list above. Bad things happen to good people all the time. Faithfulness and obedience to God is not a guarantee of an easy life. What did the heroes of the faith experience in verses 35-38?

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## Day 5

29. When we began this study guide, we looked at the key word "faith." It is of course the main theme of this chapter. But, there are two other words I would like to draw your attention to before we end our time in Hebrews 11. On your

printout of Hebrews 11, highlight the words “commended” and “promised,” in different colors—then look them up in the Strong’s Concordance or a good Bible dictionary.



Commended (verses 2,4,5,39)	Promised (verses 9,13,17,33,39)

30. What did you learn from the text concerning these words?

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31. Hebrews 11:40 is a wonderful verse of promise. God’s eternal plan began before creation and stretches all the way to our time in heaven one day. The Old Testament believers trusted God to fulfill his promise of a Messiah and looked forward by faith. Believers today look back with a heart of gratitude at the cross and resurrection of Christ. One day, we will all be in heaven together, and we will be complete. If you are a child of God and follower of Jesus Christ, how does this make you feel?

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