

## For the Family

**Read** Hebrews 11:24-26 (NCV) – *It was by faith that Moses, when he grew up, refused to be called the son of the king of Egypt’s daughter. He chose to suffer with God’s people instead of enjoying sin for a short time. He thought it was better to suffer for the Christ than to have all the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking for God’s reward.*

**Explain** that Moses could have chosen to live in the comfort, ease and luxury of the king’s palace. But God called him to lead his people out of slavery to the king. If he obeyed God, he would become an enemy of the king. He chose to obey God, even though it would be difficult. He gave up comfort that would last only a short time, for God’s reward, which would last forever.

**Talk together** about how sometimes we have to do something difficult for awhile, knowing that we will be rewarded later.

Choose a chore like mowing the lawn, or cleaning your room. It isn’t really fun to do, and it may even be hard sometimes. You may want to stop and go play a video game, but you need to keep going until it is done. Then you will get the reward. You have a nice lawn or a clean room, and maybe a reward from mom or dad. But you have to do the work first.

Moses chose to do what was hard for awhile because he wanted to please God. He knew that God would reward him later. He was willing to do the right thing, and he was willing to wait for God.

**Read** Hebrews 11:6 (NCV) – *But without faith no one can please God. We must believe that God is real and that he rewards everyone who searches for him.*

Moses believed that God was real, even though he couldn’t see him. He trusted that God would reward him, even though he would have to wait. Moses had faith.

**Pray together** that you will choose to obey God, even when it is hard. Ask him to help you to be able to wait for your reward. Tell him that you believe he is real, and that you want to please him. 4



## Living the Story Profiles in Faith

### *Hebrews 11*

Previously, in our series *Profiles in Faith*: God called **Abraham** to leave his home, and he followed God, even though he didn’t know where they were going. He was called a child of God and his faith was credited to him as righteousness.

When **David** was confronted about his adultery with Bathsheba and murder of her husband Uriah, he immediately repented, confessing clearly, “I have sinned against the Lord.”

**Joshua** called upon the people to choose to serve either God or the gods of the culture around them. Each generation faces that choice. Each generation has the responsibility to pass on their faith to the next generation.

**Elijah** was called by God to speak truth to the power of a corrupt king and priesthood. Elijah called the people out, and put on a great contest to show that God was alive and powerful, while the cultural god Baal was dead and powerless.

**Last Week: Nebuchadnezzar** was a proud king. God sent him a dream as a warning, which was interpreted by Daniel. The king refused to change, and he lost everything. Finally, he admitted that God was sovereign, and God restored him as king.

**This Week:** Hebrews 11 reminds us of the many heroes of faith found in the scriptures. The righteous have always lived by faith. We will see many components of faith, which will help us live lives of faith while awaiting the reward from our loving Father. 1

## Open

1. Who would you include in a list of “heroes of faith”? These could be well known people or people you know personally.
2. How would you define the word *faith*?

## Read Hebrews 1:1-16

### A (Partial) Definition of Faith 1-3

1. What do you think “the assurance of things hoped for” means?
2. What do you think “the conviction of things not seen” means?
3. How do these two phrases relate to each other?
4. What do they add to your definition of faith?
5. How does verse 3 illustrate this understanding of faith?
6. How important is it to believe that the universe was created by the word of God?

### Read 1 Peter 1:3-9

1. What reasons does Peter give his readers for hope and joy?
2. Which of these belong to the here and now?
3. Which belong to the future?
4. How do the ones in the future affect the ones in the here and now?

### Pleasing God 6

1. Why is it impossible to please God without faith?
2. Within the context of this chapter, what does it mean to believe that God exists?

What does it mean to earnestly seek God?

3. What does this add to your definition of faith?

2

### A Future Reward 13-16

1. What does it say about these people of faith that they believed and obeyed God in spite of not receiving the reward in their lifetime?

Do you ever get discouraged because the reward for your work seems so far away? What is a good response to that?

2. What does it mean that these believers saw themselves as “strangers and exiles on the earth”?

As a believer, do you ever feel like a stranger or alien in this world? How does that affect the way you conduct your life?

### Read 1 Peter 2:9-12

1. What does Peter call believers in verse 9?
2. What does he call them in verse 11?
3. How are these two designations related to each other?
4. What do they say to you about the way you should live?

### Take-aways

Share with the group your take-away from your time together.

### Next Steps:

- I will base my faith squarely on the faithfulness and integrity of God.
- I will live in expectation of a future (heavenly) reward rather than simply for immediate gratification.
- I will choose to emulate the life of faithful Christians who have gone before me and strive to be an example for those who follow.
- I will commit to put my faith in action this week by \_\_\_\_\_.

### Memory Verse – Hebrews 11:6

*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.*

3