

### **Background Information**

The Jewish believers to whom the Epistle of Hebrews is written were demoralized and discouraged. The enraged Jewish religious leaders were causing many hardships and persecution toward the new believers. Many were ready to turn back for the more comfortable, familiar life of works and moral self-effort. The choice they faced was depending on the Law or following Jesus. Trying to appease God, or trusting in Him. A complicated religious system or a simple relationship with the living God through Christ.

Faith often means we can't see the outcome, and we are not always assured of what lies ahead, but we are confident in God for our future. Faith itself proves that what is unseen is real. True faith treats things hoped for as a reality. It is the response of obedience, listed in what we often call "the Hall of Faith" that qualifies them as Heroes of the Faith. Willing obedience, regardless of the consequences is what pleases God. Faith is never easy, but the more we trust in and obey God the more our faith will grow as we wait.

*"We may not be sure what the future holds, but we know who holds the future."*  
Ralph Abernathy

## LOOKING FOR GOLD - WHAT DOES IT SAY?



The first step in mining for gold is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

*Setting the scene: You may want to begin your reading with Gen. 4:1-6, Gen. 5:21-24, Gen. 12:1-7, Gen. 15:1-6, Col. 1:16, Heb.12:18-29,*

### Hebrews 11:1-3

11 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.

3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.



### Digging Deeper

Dig deeper using other resources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps & cross-references. Notate where you found it to share with the group. Look for commands to obey or questions to be answered. What does God want you to know about Himself?

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### Hebrews 11:4-7

4 By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

5 By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.



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## Hebrews 11:8-16

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

11 By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude — innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. 15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.



## BOILING IT DOWN – WHAT DOES IT MEAN?



What **lesson** can I draw from my observations?

State each lesson in a simple sentence (aim for 10 words or less).

Hebrews 11:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Hebrews 11:4-7 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Hebrews 11:8-16 \_\_\_\_\_  
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## REFINED AS GOLD - HOW CAN I APPLY IT?

How should it change me? Ask yourself, "What **course of action** do I need to take to apply each lesson?" (aim for 10 words or less)

Hebrews 11:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Hebrews 11:4-7 \_\_\_\_\_  
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Hebrews 11:8-16 \_\_\_\_\_  
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**CHALLENGE:** Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. Summarize your findings in your own words.

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### STORING UP YOUR TREASURE . . .

**FOR DISCUSSION:**

What is faith based on? (in your own words)

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See if you can find some examples of rewards for waiting on the Lord.

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What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point.

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**CHECKING FOR CLARITY:** See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

Hebrews 11:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 11:4-7 \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrews 11:8-16 \_\_\_\_\_

**BARS OF GOLD:** State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

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**FLEX YOUR MUSCLES:** Can you discover an O.T. example of this N.T. truth?

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## HIDE YOUR TREASURE IN YOUR HEART

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Romans 10:17

Radiating His Truth . . .

Faith is confidence in God that leads to obedience to God. - Warren Wiersbe

