

Read Hebrews 11:1-6.

1. What do you understand to be the relationship between faith and reason?
2. Verse one states that faith is confidence in what we hope for. With regard to your faith in Jesus, what are you hoping for?
3. When we think about faith, be sure to consider the person/thing in which we place our faith. Think about it this way: while hiking through the jungle you come to an alligator infested river. At your feet you spot a boat with rotten wood and a hole in the bottom. To your left you see a rickety old bridge with foot planks that are falling out held in place by deeply frayed cables. To your right you see a solid, well-made boat with an expert river captain. Which of these would you choose to get you across the river? (Leader: Think about and respond to these possible comments...)
  - a. I would choose the old boat because I want to do it myself, I don't want someone else in charge of my journey. I will do it my way.
  - b. I would choose the bridge because of the sense of adventure.
  - c. I would choose to swim because I wish to be at one with nature.
4. Not all objects of faith are equal. What things or people do you see others trusting as the objects of their faith that will eventually prove unworthy of that trust?
5. How is faith involved in each of the following situations?
  - a. Flying in an airplane
  - b. Eating a hamburger from a fast-food restaurant
  - c. Following the instructions for assembling a device you have never seen before
  - d. Listening to directions to a place you have never been before

How is faith in Jesus different or similar to these situations?

6. Blindfold someone in your Lifegroup and move the people and furniture so they must depend on your directions. Have one person designated to give them clear instructions that, if followed, will take them safely to the door of the room (or some other designated destination). After doing this successfully (and hopefully without injury) do the same thing again, only this time add dissenting voices that give false information and try to make it hard to tell who is giving the right directions. Afterwards, debrief about the experience.
  - a. Why is faith so important?
  - b. What happens if we place our faith in the wrong voice?
  - c. How do we determine which voice is right?
  - d. What would make the directions more easily understood?

7. Why were the people of God in times before us commended for faith? Does it follow that we will be commended for exercising faith?
8. As you go to your college biology class you hear the professor give a passionate lecture on the evolutionary origins of the universe. At the end of the lecture, he challenges your Christianity as religious superstition while this class will deal only with scientific facts. In what way is the professor exercising faith? What is the relationship between our faith and science?
9. Verse six tells us that it is impossible to please God without faith, but what does that faith look like. Which of the following is involved in our faith?
  - a. Trust
  - b. Obedience
  - c. Knowledge
10. Which of the following is not an essential component for Christian faith?
  - a. Must believe that God exists
  - b. Must believe that Paul is the author of Hebrews
  - c. Must believe that God rewards those who seek him
11. How does living faith manifest itself in our everyday lives?
12. What in your life demonstrates a deficiency of faith in God? What can you do to strengthen your faith?

Pray as a group over what you've studied today.

*If anyone has not listened to the Week 1 sermon, we encourage him or her to go to [www.donelson.org/read-watch/recentsermons](http://www.donelson.org/read-watch/recentsermons) to hear the message on this passage. For more on our 20/20 Vision, visit [www.donelson.org/vision-sunday-sermon](http://www.donelson.org/vision-sunday-sermon). We encourage you to interact with us as we move through this series.*

Read Hebrews 11:4.

1. Read Genesis 4:1-8. Why do you think that God accepted Abel's offering while rejecting Cain's?
  - a. Abel brought the best of his sheep while Cain did not bring the best of his crops
  - b. Abel brought a blood sacrifice while Cain did not
  - c. God just like Abel more than He liked Cain
  - d. Other
2. In what way did Abel's faith contribute God's acceptance of his offering?
3. How might our faith influence how we give or what we give?
4. Since God did not accept Cain's offering we assume that he did not have proper faith in God. How did his lack of faith (an inward attitude) result in an improper sacrifice (an outward action)?
5. In what areas of life do you lack faith? How does that lack of faith affect you?
6. Why did Cain react so angrily toward Abel? Have you ever had people react negatively to you because of your faith?
7. What does the verse mean when it says, "by faith he (Abel) was commended as righteous"?
8. How does Abel still speak?
9. Can the works of faith still echo in the world after we are gone? Give some examples.
10. What do the actions of your faith say to the world?
11. When speaking of offering we also use the word "sacrifice." In one meaning, sacrifice suggests that we have suffered serious deprivation of an essential right or commodity for some greater purpose. What have you sacrificed for God? If God's provision outweighs our offering is it still considered a sacrifice?
12. Think of the phrase "great sacrifice." Which of the following represents your view of sacrifice for God?
  - a. Great Sacrifice- An unusually difficult level of deprivation due to deep devotion and urgent demand
  - b. Great Sacrifice- An excellent investment of energy and resources because of the value of the thing pursued and the all-around return on investment

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*If anyone has not listened to the Week 2 sermon, we encourage him or her to go to [www.donelson.org/read-watch/recentsermons](http://www.donelson.org/read-watch/recentsermons) to hear the message on this passage. For more on our 20/20 Vision, visit [www.donelson.org/vision-sunday-sermon](http://www.donelson.org/vision-sunday-sermon). We encourage you to interact with us as we move through this series.*

Read Hebrews 11:8-19.

1. After reading this passage, can you list all of the individuals listed because of their faith? Do you know some people in your life that could be on this list?
2. How did Abraham's faith change his decisions in life? How did he spend his resources and energy in a way that demonstrated his faith?
3. If God revised Hebrews 11 and used your name what would that verse say about you?  
"By faith (*your name*), when he/she was faced with (*What difficulty has come into your life?*), responded by (*How did your faith get you through that time?*)."
4. As Abraham lived in faith he was looking forward to what? What does this part of faith look like for you?
5. Sarah was 90 years old when she gave birth to Isaac. If you were her, how would you have responded to the promise of a child?
  - a. You would have laughed
  - b. You would have figured that the promise was figurative
  - c. You would have tried to find some other way to make the promise happen
  - d. You would have just said, "Sure, whatever."
6. Based on God's promises to Abraham, he knew that he would have a child. Do you recall Abraham's struggle to accept this promise at face value? What steps did Abraham take that demonstrated his initial lack of faith in this part of God's promise?
7. According to verse 13 many people who lived in faith never saw the fulfillment of those things they were promised. Does this mean that their faith failed them? Why?
8. Verses 14-16 explain the mentality of those faith-driven people who follow God's guidance into the unknown. Why are these people able to see past the lures of this world and follow God's plan?
9. The author of Hebrews reminds us about the episode on Mt. Moriah when God had instructed Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. What did Abraham believe God would do that enabled him to proceed with this assignment?
10. What in this world has distracted you from trusting and following God's leading?

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*If anyone has not listened to the Week 3 sermon, we encourage him or her to go to [www.donelson.org/read-watch/recentsermons](http://www.donelson.org/read-watch/recentsermons) to hear the message on this passage. For more on our 20/20 Vision, visit [www.donelson.org/vision-sunday-sermon](http://www.donelson.org/vision-sunday-sermon). We encourage you to interact with us as we move through this series.*

Read Hebrews 11:23-29, 32-40.

1. Moses' parents hid him for three months after his birth. Which of the following may best describe their faith at that time?
  - a. They were looking to demonstrate their opposition to the king
  - b. They knew that they must protect the future leader of Israel at all cost
  - c. They did not know what they would do next but trusted God
2. When he grew up, Moses chose to identify with the people of Israel rather than the house of Pharaoh. What might this have cost him? In what part of your life have you experienced loss or pain because of your faith?
3. According to 11:25-26, why did Moses make this choice?
  - a. Pharaoh made Moses mad
  - b. The people of Israel were more popular in Egypt at the time
  - c. He realized that following God would bring a greater reward
4. Does it bother you that Moses made his choice based on future reward? Why?
5. What part did faith play in the crossing of the Red Sea?
  - a. They just got lucky that a strong wind came at the time they needed it
  - b. Their faith in God aligned them with his works
  - c. Their faith possessed magical properties that moved the waters
6. What difficulty is going on with your life? Is your faith ready? What role will your faith play in getting you through that time?
7. When you read verse 32 which of those people do you admire the most? How did this person demonstrate faith-filled living?
8. In what way do miracles strengthen faith? Have you witnessed any miracles?
9. Why do some people experience miracles as a response to their faith, while others die as a sign of their faith? Is this fair? Which group has more faith?
10. Which of the following can cause our faith to grow?
  - a. Ask God for more faith
  - b. Order an upgrade online
  - c. Read in the Bible how faith works
  - d. Try harder
  - e. Talk with others about their faith and how God provided for them
  - f. Watch more preachers on television
  - g. Write in a journal about those times that God has taken care of you

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*If anyone has not listened to the Week 4 sermon, we encourage him or her to go to [www.donelson.org/read-watch/recentsermons](http://www.donelson.org/read-watch/recentsermons) to hear the message on this passage. For more on our 20/20 Vision, visit [www.donelson.org/vision-sunday-sermon](http://www.donelson.org/vision-sunday-sermon). We encourage you to interact with us as we move through this series.*