

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

3rd - 5th Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 7

Hebrews 11:13-16

Hebrews 11:13-16

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The “Main passage” is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the “reward box” found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God’s Word.

Objective To review the stories of faith we have read in Hebrews 11 and to remind the students that we too are strangers and pilgrims in this world.

Key Verses

Hebrews 11:13-16—Main Teaching Passage

Hebrews 11:1-12 (review)

Memory Verse - Philippians 3:20

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Hook

Review last week’s memory verse, Mark 9:24.

Spend some time reviewing the past few weeks’ lessons. Write the names, “Abel,” “Enoch,” “Noah,” “Abraham,” and “Sarah” on the board, and have the students talk through each of the stories and how each of the characters demonstrated their faith.

Ask the class: “What can we learn from each of these examples?”

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

Hebrews 11:13 is a natural point to review the material we have studied to this point. It begins, “These all,” clearly looking back and making comparison to the men and women portrayed to this point. We see that all five had certain things in common.

They all died in faith, trusting in the promised redemption of God without having seen it fulfilled. They all knew that this world was not their home, that their final destination was a city where God himself dwelt. By faith, Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and Sarah all looked forward to the promise of Messiah. While they did not get to see that promise fulfilled, they trusted in God anyway. Not only did they live by faith, but they also died in faith, believing there was something ahead of them.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK

Over the past 6 weeks, we have been studying faith and looking at examples of faith that can instruct and guide us in our lives. Each of these heroes of faith teaches us something different about what it means to live a life of faith:

- Abel by faith offered the correct sacrifice, receiving and obeying instruction.
- Enoch walked with God and by faith was taken away because he pleased God.
- Noah by faith “moved with Godly fear,” obeyed God’s instruction immediately and without question.
- Abraham by faith left his old life behind and obeyed God, blindly following Him despite not knowing the destination.
- And finally, by faith Sarah received strength, so that even in her doubts, she was able to conceive and give birth to a promised child.

Their faith (except Sarah) is defined by two things, belief and action. For Abel, Enoch, Noah and Abraham, faith was not simply agreeing with God or believing that His Word is true. Their faith was active and alive. Because they trusted that God’s Word is true, they act in obedience toward it.

LOOK (Continued)

We can learn a lot from these saints of the past. We, like Abel, can trust that God's Word is true, and therefore should treat God with reverence and respect. Like Enoch, we can live in world that is opposed to God, and yet we can walk with Him. Like Noah we can receive God's instruction and act on it quickly and without hesitation. Like Abraham, we can step out in faith, putting our old lives behind us and leaning on Him for all of our needs. Like Sarah, we can quiet our doubts and receive strength to follow Him.

These heroes of the faith all had something else in common as well though. None of them were satisfied with the world around them. They did not settle for the fallen world that they lived in, but they looked back to the garden. They remembered that God had promised to send a Redeemer and they longed for a return to that world. This is what it means when it tells us that we are strangers and pilgrims in this world. We are passing through this world to better one. We are leaving this temporary life behind for a permanent one, a New Jerusalem where God sits enthroned with the Lamb.

We, like these people whose lives we have studied, need to live by faith, and part of that means living for the world that lies in front of us. If you are lucky you might get 85 years of life on this planet. That is nothing compared to the eternity that awaits us in the New Heavens and the New Earth.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class memorize Philippians 3:20

Ask the class: "What does it mean that we are 'citizens of heaven'?"

Pray: Thank the Lord for the examples of faith that He gives us in His Word. Ask Him to increase our faith, and for help to walk before Him in a manner that is worthy of His name. Praise Him for the joy that is set before us.

Parent Question: How are we "strangers and pilgrims on the earth"?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Hebrews 11:13-16 by David Guzik

4. (13-16) What the faith of Abraham and Sarah teaches us.

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. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that *country* from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 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.

- a. **These all died in faith, not having received the promises:** The promise of the Messiah was made to Abraham and Sarah, and they believed the promise. Yet they **died** having never received it, only seeing it **in faith**.
 - i. They **saw the promises afar off**, willing to look at and consider the promise of God, even though the fulfillment seemed so far away.
 - ii. They **were assured of them**, carefully considering the promise, assured that the promise was valid because *God* made the promise.
 - iii. They **embraced them**, taking the promise and embracing it in faith. Abraham and Sarah probably thought many times each day about the son God promised to them and each time they **embraced** the promise. "*The saints 'embraced' the promises.* The Greek word signifies 'salutes,' as when we see a friend at a distance." (Spurgeon)
 - iv. They **confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims**: Abraham and Sarah always took the promise with the understanding that this world was not their home. They knew God had a better and more enduring home for them in heaven.
 - v. If these examples of faith endured through difficulty and discouragement without **having received the promises**, then we who *have* received the promises have even more reason for endurance.
 - iv. **These all died in faith:**

- They did not need to seek faith on their deathbed. They **died in faith**.
- Though they did have faith, they did also die. We do not have faith to escape death, but to die **in faith**.
- They never went *beyond* faith and "grew beyond" simple dependence on God.
- They never went *below* faith or lost faith.

b. **They seek a homeland . . . they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country.** Living by faith is easier when we remember that this world is not our home. It is easier when we remember that on this side of eternity, not everything is settled and not every wrong is righted. That is why they **seek a homeland** and a **better . . . heavenly country**.

i. Faith is very difficult when we live as "practical atheists." This describes someone who may have a theoretical belief in God, but the belief doesn't *matter* in what they do from day to day. When we remember there is a spiritual reality - a heavenly home that is our real home - faith is much easier.

ii. The great theme of modern times is *naturalism*, the belief that only what can be found and measured in nature is "real." Scientists and educators who trust in naturalism may be content to let us believe in God, just as long as we agree that God is a fairy tale - someone not *real*. But when we believe in the *reality* of God and of heaven and of His Word, it is completely unacceptable to those who live by naturalism.

iii. H.L. Mencken said faith is the "Illogical belief in the occurrence of the impossible." This would only be true if there is no God or if He does not matter. Since God *is* and since He *does* matter, faith is entirely logical.

c. **Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God:** For those courageous enough to believe in God, and to believe in Him as *real*, and heaven and eternal life as *real*, **God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.**

i. We often consider the idea that we should not be ashamed of God, but we must also consider that we may make God ashamed of us. When we do not regard God and heaven and eternity as real, there can be a sense in which God is **ashamed to be called our God**.