

# “Faith Hall of Fame”

## Session 10 – Hebrews 11:1-40

### Character Study



### Leaders Notes:

In the previous session, we were told that "we are not of those who shrink back" (10:39); today, we meet the people who actually lived that out. The goal of this session is to move these figures from "stained-glass window superheroes" to real-life veterans. By using the "Discovery Study" format in Section 1, you are inviting the group to be investigators of the Word rather than just listeners. This creates a "discovery moment" where group members teach each other, which significantly increases engagement and retention.

**Character Study Note:** For this Bible Study method, each group member will choose a different Old Testament character from the list we find in Hebrews 11. Individually, they will read about a character looking for his/her “humanity.” These “Faith Hall of Famers” weren’t superheroes. They were regular people. Encourage your members to try to make connections between the impossible situation they read about and their own personal lives. We aren’t studying history for the sake of facts; we are studying history to build "muscle memory" for our own faith today. Success in this session isn't knowing the details of the story; it's a group member realizing, "If God was faithful in Sarah's silence, He can be faithful in mine."

### Timing tips & Notes for Skipping:

- **The 5-Minute Warning:** In Sections 1, 2, and 4, once the primary activity or reading is finished, you have roughly 10 minutes for discussion. If the group gets stuck on a single character or theological point, move to the **Bolded Phrases** to ensure the main point lands.
- **Strategic Skipping (Section 3):** Section 3 (Reflection) is your primary time-saver. It is designated as an **optional activity**. If your Section 1 discovery or Section 2 discussion is particularly deep, skip Section 3 entirely to protect your time for the conclusion.

- **Character Selection:** If you have a smaller group (under 6 people) or are running behind, do not try to cover every character in the "Grit and Glory" table. Assign only **Abraham, Moses, and Rahab**; these three provide the most diverse examples of waiting, leading, and risking.

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## INTRO – 3min

**Say It:** (Lead your group by reading this section aloud to them.)

In our last session, Hebrews 10 told us that we are part of a people who 'do not shrink back.' Now, in Chapter 11, the author provides the evidence. We call this the 'Hall of Fame,' but these aren't just names on a wall. . . they are veterans with real stories.

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## SECTION 1 – Grit and the Glory: A Discovery Study (20min – 8min individual study, 12min sharing)

**Say It:** (Lead your group by reading this section aloud to them.)

To start, we are going to do some detective work. I'd like each of you (individually or in groups) to choose a specific character from the list on page 7-8. Let's try to cover them all. For each one, you'll find two references: one for the "Grit" (the messy Old Testament story) and one for the "Glory" (the summary in Hebrews).

Take about 8 minutes to read your person's backstory in the Old Testament. As you read, don't look for a superhero; look for a human being. Try to find their 'Impossible Situation' and the specific moment they decided to step forward rather than shrink back. We'll reassemble in 8 minutes to hear what you discovered.

**Leaders:** We created a worksheet (pg9) that you can print for your members if you think it would be helpful.

**Discuss It:** Ask each person or group to answer these questions for their assigned character.

- **The Impossible Situation: What was the specific "unseen" or "hopeless" reality this person was facing?** Answers on "Leaders Cheat Sheet" (pg 7-8)
- **The "Shrink Back" Temptation: What would have been the easiest way for this person to "shrink back" (give up or take the easy way out)?** Answers on "Leaders Cheat Sheet" (pg 7-8)

- **The Step of Faith: What was the actual physical action they took that proved they trusted God more than their eyes?** [Answers on "Leaders Cheat Sheet" \(pg 7-8\)](#)

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## SECTION 2 – The Reassembling Story (18min)

**Discuss It:** [\(Spend most of your time in discussion.\)](#)

- **After hearing from different stories, what is one thing every character had in common regarding their "Impossible Situation"?**

[They all lacked control over their outcome. They also didn't always respond correctly. \(Sarah laughed, etc.\) Faith was only required when they reached the end of their own resources.](#)

**Read It:** [\(Ask someone to read aloud.\)](#)

- Hebrews 11:1-31

**Say It:** [\(Lead your group by reading this section aloud to them.\)](#)

Hebrews 11:1 explains that faith in God is evidence. Having faith is like holding the deed to a house you haven't moved into yet. You don't have the keys, but the 'evidence' in your hand proves the house is legally yours. Faith in Christ is already guaranteed. The word translated as "sure" in this verse is a legal term used like a title or deed. **In Christ, we don't just wish. We know.**

**Discuss It:** [\(Spend most of your time in discussion.\)](#)

- **If you truly believed in faith as a guarantee, how would it change your behavior?**

[We could act, spend money, and make plans for a guaranteed future.](#)

[Consider it like a title. You start talking to architects, reassessing finances, planning for a new future.](#)

- **Is there something in your life that God has guaranteed, that you should act on?**

[This question is intended to make people think. Don't push for answers, but if someone wants to share, it could lead to some real depth and vulnerability.](#)

- **Based on the character you studied, how was their action (the step they took) actually the "evidence" of what they hoped for?**

[Noah's "evidence" was a boat on dry land; Abraham's was a nursery in a 100-year-old's tent. Their actions made the "unseen" visible to the world. When](#)

you truly believe, you act as if it were true. **Faith is not a feeling you wait for; it is a step you take.**

- Which of these characters' stories feels most like your life right now? Are you in a "25-year wait" like Abraham, a "Red Sea trap" like Moses, or "building in the dry" like Noah?

This is a chance for group members to connect their current life-stressors to biblical patterns. **Faith isn't the absence of doubt; it's the presence of trust in the middle of it.**

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## SECTION 3 – Reflection – Remember the Cost (6min)

**Reflect on It:** (Optional Activity)

**Say It:** (Lead your group by reading this aloud to them.)

We have read their stories in Hebrews 11. Now, let's look at yours. Based on the exercise we just did, answer the same questions for yourself.

My Impossible Situation is...

The way I'm tempted to "shrink back" is...

One step of faith I can take this week is...

Give them 2min to sit in the quiet and think/pray/reflect, and then say:

Reflect a couple more minutes on your current struggle. If it was added to Hebrews 11, how would the verse end? "By faith, [Your Name] [Action Step] because they considered Him faithful."

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## SECTION 4 – The “Better” Conclusion

**Hebrews 11:32-40 (11min – 3 Questions)**

**Read It:** (Ask someone in your group to read this passage aloud.)

- Hebrews 11:32-40

## Discuss It: (Spend most of your time in discussion.)

- **Notice the difference in outcomes. They are all commended for their faith. Some "conquered kingdoms" and "shut the mouths of lions", while others were "sawn in two", or "were chained and put in prison." Does this change your definition of what it means for faith to be "successful"?**

Faith is not a magic wand to change our circumstances; it is a steady hand to hold onto God through any circumstances. The "victory" is the endurance, not necessarily the earthly escape.

- **Have you ever felt like you must have lacked faith because something didn't end well?**

This could be a good space to allow deeper sharing. Remember that we are called to have faith and trust God to use it. We are not called to manipulate or produce certain outcomes.

- **The chapter ends by saying these heroes didn't receive the full promise because God planned something better for us. How does it change your perspective to realize that these Faith Hall of Famers were actually waiting for you to join the story?**

It shifts our view from being "spectators" of their faith to "successors" of it. We often feel small compared to Moses or Abraham, but the author argues that we have the "better" thing they only saw from a distance . . . the finished work of Jesus. Their story is a relay race, and they have passed the baton to us. We aren't just reading their history; we are completing their legacy. **Their story wasn't finished until your story began.**

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## DO IT – 5min

Ask your group members to choose one or two options to practice this week. Talk about your plan and encourage them to share their goals with one another. Plan to discuss their choices again next week. Create a little accountability within your group.

- **The Legacy Interview:** Identify one "veteran" believer in your life (a grandparent, mentor, or older friend) who has modeled long-term faith. Ask them: "What was the longest 'gap' you ever had to wait through, and how did you keep from shrinking back when the promise felt far away?"

- **The "Title Deed" Step:** Look at the "Impossible Situation" you identified during the reflection. Identify one physical action you can take this week that treats God's promise as a guaranteed title rather than just a wish. Perform that action as "evidence" of what you cannot yet see.
- **The Hall of Fame Wall:** Write your name and your "Action Step" on a card: "By faith, [Name] [Action Step] because they considered Him faithful." Place it somewhere you will see it daily (like a bathroom mirror or car dashboard) to remind yourself that you are currently writing your own chapter in the community of courage.

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## PRAY IT: 2min

(Pray however your group prefers, but if your group struggles with prayer requests becoming a burden, we are offering an alternative each week. Remember: The goal is always **Bible Study, Community, and Care**, so praying for one another is important, but it doesn't have to take place inside your meeting times. As a matter of fact, it's better if it reaches beyond your time constraints. You are the leader and guiding your group to healthy practices is important.)

**Prayer:** (Lead your group by praying this prayer this aloud with them.)

"Lord, we stand amazed by this cloud of witnesses . . . ordinary people who stood in front of Red Seas, empty nurseries, and giant armies and chose to believe Your Word more than their own eyes. We bring our own 'impossible situations' to You now. For the areas in our lives where the silence is long, the math doesn't add up, or the obstacles look immovable, we ask for the gift of faith. Help us to see Your promises as our title . . . a guarantee so certain that it changes how we live, even before we see the result. Lord, Give us the courage to take a specific step of faith this week. May we not be a people who shrink back in fear, but a people who move forward in hope, considering You faithful even in the middle of our struggle. We thank You that our stories are part of Your story, and we rest in Your 'better' plan for us. Amen.

**TOTAL TIME: 65min**

## Character Assignments

Character	The "Grit" (Old Testament Story)	The "Glory" (Hebrews verse)
Noah	Genesis 6:13-22 (Building in the dry)	Hebrews 11:7
Abraham	Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-5 (The 25-year wait)	Hebrews 11:8-12
Moses' Parents	Exodus 2:1-10 (Defying a King)	Hebrews 11:23
Moses	Exodus 14:10-22 (The Red Sea Trap)	Hebrews 11:24-29
Rahab	Joshua 2:1-15 (The Risky Welcome)	Hebrews 11:31
Gideon	Judges 7:1-9, 16-22 (The 300 vs. Thousands)	Hebrews 11:32

# Leaders Cheat Sheet

Character	The Impossible Situation	The "Shrink Back" Temptation	The Step of Faith
<b>Noah</b>	Threatened by a global flood; building a massive ship with no ocean in sight.	To ignore the warning and live like his neighbors to avoid being the "crazy guy."	He built the ark exactly as commanded, even though "rain" was an unseen concept.
<b>Abraham</b>	Promised a son at 75, but remained childless until 100. Living in tents in a land he didn't own.	To settle in his father's land or assume God's promise failed because of his age.	He left his home for a destination he didn't know and "considered God faithful" despite his body being "as good as dead."
<b>Moses' Parents</b>	Living under a decree that every Hebrew baby boy must be thrown into the Nile.	To obey the King's edict to save their own lives.	They hid the child for three months, refusing to be afraid of the King's edict.
<b>Moses</b>	Trapped between Pharaoh's advancing army and the Red Sea.	To surrender to Pharaoh and return to slavery to avoid being slaughtered.	He raised his staff and told the people to "stand still," then marched forward into the sea.
<b>Rahab</b>	An outsider in a city (Jericho) marked for destruction; hiding enemy spies.	To turn the spies in to the King of Jericho to ensure her own safety.	She hid the spies and hung the scarlet cord, betting her life that Israel's God was the true God.
<b>Gideon</b>	Facing an army of 135,000 Midianites with only 300 men and some jars/torches.	To run away or hide in the winepress (where he started) because the math didn't add up.	He blew the trumpet and broke the jars, trusting God to throw the enemy into a panic.

# Discovery Character Study

**Your Character:** \_\_\_\_\_

**The Grit:** (Old Testament Story) \_\_\_\_\_

**The Glory:** (Hebrews Verse) \_\_\_\_\_

## Questions:

1. **The Impossible Situation:** What was the specific "unseen" or "hopeless" reality this person was facing?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. **The "Shrink Back" Temptation:** What would have been the easiest way for this person to "shrink back" (give up or take the easy way out)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. **The Step of Faith:** What was the actual physical action they took that proved they trusted God more than their eyes?