

“Faith Hall of Fame”

Session 10 – Hebrews 11:1-40

Character Study



INTRO – 3min

Say It:

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.

SECTION 1 – Grit and the Glory: A Discovery Study

Say It:

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.

Questions:

- **The Impossible Situation: What was the specific "unseen" or "hopeless" reality this person was facing?**
- **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)?**

- **The Step of Faith: What was the actual physical action they took that proved they trusted God more than their eyes?**

SECTION 2 – The Reassembling Story

Discuss It:

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

Read It: Hebrews 11:1-31

Say It:

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.**

Questions:

- **If you truly believed in faith as a guarantee, how would it change your behavior?**
- **Is there something in your life that God has guaranteed, that you should act on?**
- **Based on the character you studied, how was their action (the step they took) actually the "evidence" of what they hoped for?**
- **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?**

SECTION 3 – Reflection – Remember the Cost

You have read their stories in Hebrews 11. Now, consider yours. Based on the exercise you 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...

After a few minutes of reflection.

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."

SECTION 4 – The “Better” Conclusion

Hebrews 11:32-40

Read It: Hebrews 11:32-40

Questions:

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

DO IT

Choose one or two options to practice this week.

- **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.

PRAY IT:

Prayer:

"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.

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 |
|-----------------------|--|---|---|
| Noah | 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. |
| Abraham | 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." |
| Moses' Parents | 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. |
| Moses | 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. |
| Rahab | 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. |
| Gideon | 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?