



Heroes of the Old Testament

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ABOUT THIS STUDY

THIS BIBLE STUDY IS UNIQUE.

- Each session comes from a previously published LifeWay Bible study.
- Each session was written by a different author.
- Each session has video teaching, but the videos vary in length.
- Each author brings her particular style and pacing to the video teaching and personal study.

BECAUSE THIS STUDY IS UNIQUE, YOU CAN USE IT DIFFERENT WAYS.

- Conduct the study as a regular consecutive-week study.
- Use this study as a retreat curriculum.
- Use a session or two to fill the gap between other Bible studies.
- Complete the study personally, with your leadership team, or full group to preview the five studies and authors represented.

REGARDLESS OF HOW YOU CHOOSE TO STUDY, WE RECOMMEND YOU CHECK OUT THE LEADER GUIDE.

Located on page 159, the leader guide offers several tips and helps along with discussion guides for each week. If you are leading a group, look over it ahead of time to prepare. We hope you'll find it helpful!

INTRODUCTION

Hebrews 11 begins,

Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen. For by it our ancestors won God's approval. (vv. 1-2)

The next thirty-eight verses tell of the faithfulness of our ancestors in the faith—how they lived in the reality of what is hoped for, even when they couldn't see it. They trusted in God, the true faithful One, to fulfill His promises to them. They acted as if there were never any doubt He would do so.

Thousands of years after the men and women of the Old Testament walked the earth, we still can learn from their examples. We can learn to live in the reality of what is hoped for. We can learn to trust in the One who is faithful.

As we study the lives of four men and one woman who demonstrated obedience and trust in the steadfastness of our God, we hope you are encouraged. God fulfills His promises—every last one. He is worthy of our faith, our trust, and our hope.

Following what is often called the "Hall of Faith" in Hebrews 11, the next chapter begins with the answer to our "now what" question.

Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith. For the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

HEBREWS 12:1-2

These men and women—the faithful ones—surround us. Their stories shout the truth about our God. He is good, He is sovereign, He is wise, He is faithful.

Our God has been with His people through war, exile, persecution, uncertainty, and silence. He is still with us today. That is what the faithful shout to us as we run. He is with you.

With these testimonies in our hearts and minds, we can run the race set before us with endurance. They surround us, but Jesus is ahead. We keep our eyes on Jesus—both the beginning and the completion of our faith.

For every one of God's promises is "Yes" in him.

2 CORINTHIANS 1:20a

These Old Testament heroes of the faith all point to Him—the One sitting at the right hand of the throne of God, the One who is the fulfillment of every promise.